

HORSE & HOUND

30 JULY 2015 EVERY THURSDAY

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Quarrycrest Echo

Piggy French

How she runs her yard

SHOWJUMPING

John Whitaker close
second at London GCT
PLUS why Robert
Smith is back

DRESSAGE

Cob from Appleby Fair
wins at regionals

SHOWING

Meet the 'perfect'
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EDITORIAL COMMENT

THE difference in the timetables for selecting British squads is fascinating.

The event riders have already been chosen for the European Championships in mid-September, giving them two months to chew their fingernails and hope they can keep their horses sound. Although top eventers compete only sparingly — most will have just one or two runs between now and Blair — injuries still strike often.

Only two British senior eventing squads have made it intact from selection to championship in the past 12 years and with 12 combinations on the squad this year instead of the normal six, the top two reserves can be pretty sure of a run.

'Only two British senior eventing squads have made it intact from selection to championships in the past 12 years'

The dressage riders named last week have about three weeks' build-up. But such is the sport's predictability that three of the four could be almost certain of their ticket before it was confirmed.

Meanwhile, the showjumpers will not know if they are going to Aachen until 10 days before the contest starts. The news that John Whitaker's ride Argento — second in the London Global Champions Tour grand prix last weekend (news, p6) — will not be going is disappointing. With Olympic qualification not yet secured, Britain's showjumpers arguably have more to lose than the other disciplines. Let's hope it all comes together.



Pippa Roome
Acting print director
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This week

30 July

'I freely admit that the best of my fun, I owe it to horse and hound'

Whyte-Melville 1821-1878



The England polo team warm up ahead of their triumphant match against South America (report, p84)

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Cover picture *By Peter Nixon*
Piggy French and Quarrycrest Echo (Access all areas, p28)

CHAMPIONS TOUR of





Nail-biting finale at London GCT

WHERE: Syon Park, London leg of the Global Champions Tour

WHEN: Saturday, 25 July, 6.50pm

WHO: Scott Brash, William Whitaker and John Whitaker

WHY: nerves ahead of the jump-off, where John Whitaker is beaten by just eight hundredths of a second

JOHN WHITAKER was pipped by the narrowest of margins – just 0.08 of a second – in the grand prix of the London leg of the Global Champions Tour at the weekend.

The home crowd were willing him on every step of the way, but John and Argento just missed out to Sweden's Rolf-Göran Bengtsson in a nail-biting finish.

"I'm enjoying it, my horse jumped great. I just couldn't catch Rolf, he was too quick," said John. "I can't complain though – it's nice to win, but I'm happy with where I've come."

It was a first visit to the west London site for the GCT, after being at the Olympic Park in 2013 and Horse Guards last year. The venue garnered support from riders. Tour founder Jan Tops said he was "very happy" with Syon Park, a picturesque setting previously used in filming for period dramas including *Gosford Park* and *Downton Abbey*.

"For the horses and the riders the location is very good logistics wise – they have a lot of space, great footing, good stables and a lot of space," said Jan.

However, many empty seats in the grandstand left some questioning the atmosphere and cost of tickets – for the third year running.

"It's very quiet, we wouldn't be coming again," said one tradestand owner.

• **For full report see p40.**



Edited by
Amy Mathieson

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DO YOU HAVE A NEWS STORY?

Phone: 020 3148 4590 Email: amy.mathieson@timeinc.com

Top pair out of Euros

John Whitaker and Argento will not be heading to Aachen, a further loss for Team GBR. **Amy Mathieson** reports

THE British showjumping team for the FEI European Showjumping Championships suffered a further blow at the weekend after John Whitaker revealed that he would not be making his top ride Argento available for selection.

After the pair were pipped to the post by Sweden's Rolf Göran-Bengtsson by just 0.08 seconds at the London Global Champions Tour (GCT) grand prix on Saturday (25 July), the GBR team stalwart said the pair wouldn't be jumping at the Europeans (11-23 August).

The Europeans is the final chance Britain has to qualify for Rio 2016, after injury and dismal performances at last year's World Equestrian Games left the country without a spot at next year's Olympics. Individuals may still qualify via the world ranking system, which Scott Brash currently heads.

"Argento is a fantastic horse, but he loves smaller arenas and isn't quite as competent in a big grass arena," John said. "Aachen is a unique place. He always tries his best and I don't want to break his heart in something he's not comfortable in."

World Class performance manager Di Lampard told *H&H* she was "not surprised" but naturally "disappointed" by the news.

John's form this year had suggested him as a strong contender for the Europeans, with Nations Cup team victories and solid performances on the GCT.

"It is disappointing that we don't have John on a long-list for the Europeans, but I very much respect all the riders' opinions on their



A strong combination: John Whitaker and Argento jumped a double clear in the Rome Nations Cup

horses," Di told *H&H*. "It's the old phrase 'horses for courses'. Argento is 13 and still improving and John knows what arenas will suit this horse."

"Aachen is a very daunting arena, you need to have bold horses to compete there and I have to respect John's decision."

Earlier this month Scott Brash told *H&H* he would not be jumping his top ride Hello Sanctos, should he be selected for the team, but that he was putting nine-year-olds Hello M'Lady and Hello Forever forward (news, 9 July).

It was not in the horse's "best interests" to contest both the Europeans and the final leg of

the Rolex Grand Slam at Spruce Meadows (9-13 September) – where the pair stand to win a €1million (£714,000) bonus.

The team for the Europeans is expected to be named after Dublin Horse Show, giving team selector Di time to assess riders at both the Hickstead (31 July) and Dublin (7 August) legs of the Nations Cup series.

"I'm starting to get very excited now, we have a good squad of riders to select the team from," she added.

John's brother Michael told *H&H* he was hoping to make the team with Viking or Cassionato (comment, p43).



Dressage

Valegro spearheads Team GBR

LONDON 2012 gold medallists Charlotte Dujardin and Carl Hester head up the British squad for the FEI European Dressage Championships (12-16 August), *writes Lucy Elder*.

Carl, 48, is riding Jane de la Mare and his own Nip Tuck. Charlotte, 30, will partner Roly Luard, Anne Barrott and Carl's Valegro (Blueberry).

Joining them is Fiona Bigwood, 39, on Penny Bigwood's Atterupgaards Orthilia (Tillie) and Michael Eilberg, 28, on his father Ferdi Eilberg's Marakov.

This is the first time Fiona has made the British squad since the

2010 World Equestrian Games (WEG) in Kentucky.

"To have a horse new to grand prix level and get in the team in her first year is just amazing," said Fiona. "Tillie is the horse of a lifetime."

Reigning world (pictured left), Olympic and European champion Charlotte said she is hoping to defend her 2013 title.

She added that Blueberry is "in great form".

All four combinations will contest the team competition with the best three scores to count.

Chef d'equipe Richard Waygood said he is "delighted"

to be taking such a strong team.

"We're in the enviable position that, again, we have competitive riders on the British team," he added.

"Looking ahead, this is yet another good stepping stone on the road to Rio 2016."

There is less pressure on the dressage team than on the British showjumpers, with the country securing Olympic spot when taking silver at last year's World Equestrian Games.

The reserves are Spencer Wilton, 42, on Jen Goodman and his own British-bred Super Nova II, and Anna Ross, 42, on Jane Sewell's Die Callas.

Showjumping

Canada loses Nations Cup leg in sponsorship row

CANADA, one of the world's strongest jumping nations, has lost its Furusiyya Nations Cup round as a result of loyalty to long-term sponsor Rolex, writes Pippa Cuckson.

The late cancellation of the qualifier by Spruce Meadows seems to be the latest casualty of the FEI's sponsorship lock-out. It has also left Canada without a place in the 2015 Nations Cup finals in Barcelona – the country finished second last year.

Unlike Europe, North America has only three series qualifiers. Canada sent "rookies" to Mexico to gain experience, expecting to grab its Barcelona slot at Spruce Meadows. But on 10 April, Spruce cancelled, too late for Equine Canada to find a replacement venue.

In December 2012, the FEI agreed a 10-year, £120m exclusivity deal with Rolex's rival watchmaker Longines.

This ended Rolex's long-term support of FEI official series. Several other shows have already chosen to stay with Rolex, notably 's-Hertogenbosch, Geneva,



Spruce Meadows has a long-standing arrangement with Rolex

Wellington and Kentucky, which variously withdrew from the World Cup series and 2018 World Equestrian Games (WEG) bids as a result.

The FEI's Sabrina Zeender told *H&H* shows had until December 2014 to sever ties with Rolex, except Aachen, whose hosting of the 2015 Europeans was agreed before Longines' contract.

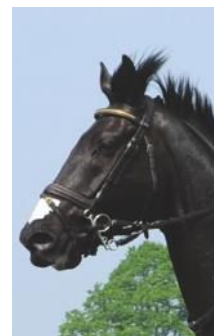
Consultants examining the future viability of WEG recently recommended a move towards multiple principal sponsors. Asked if the Longines exclusivity agreement worked against this, Ms Zeender said: "Longines is the FEI's top partner in the time-keeping category. There is nothing

that prevents the FEI from having partnerships in other categories."

Ian Allison, of Spruce Meadows, declined to answer a question about Rolex, but said: "Despite exploring numerous options, Spruce Meadows was not able to host a regional qualifier for the series this year, as it is not able to meet all of the required criteria set down for the 2015 season."

Spruce Meadows has hosted Nations Cups without a break since 1977.

At Spruce's September show, Scott Brash aims to win the Rolex Grand Slam – a bonus launched by Rolex shortly after it was dropped by the FEI.



ZEUS OF RUSHALL

The four-star eventer owned by the Wookeys has been retired following the retirement of rider Lucie McNichol. The Burghley Young Event Horse five-year-old winner represented Britain in the 2009 European CIC2* winning team bronze.



VERT DE GRIS

The Grade A showjumper was put down on 13 July aged 29. He was the ride of Keith Shore for several years and took him to victory at Horse of the Year Show in 2002. He was bought by Amy Billingham in 2002 and jumped in the young riders classes and up to 1.40m.



KELSTERTON MERLIN

Vicky White's 2008 Horse of the Year Show (HOYS) Champion has died. He retired from competition in 2013. The working hunter was a six-time HOYS finalist and won at Royal Windsor and the British Show Pony Society Gold Cup.



COOPERS LAW

The European Eventing Championship reserve has a new half-sister as his dam, Miss Cooper, has given birth to a filly foal by Jaguar Mail. The breeding programme from the Kildalton Gold mare Miss Cooper is a joint venture between Nicola Dickson and her niece Sally Williams.



COLORIT

The 12-year-old, who has been successful with German showjumper David Will, is now being competed by his countryman, Olympic rider Christian Ahlmann. "He is a horse for large jumping and rather quiet with a lot of assets," said Christian.

Hunting

RSPCA to drop hunting cases

THE RSPCA will no longer pursue those accused of illegal foxhunting through the courts, writes Polly Portwin.

This decision follows a review by Stephen Wooler, former chief inspector of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), after the charity was accused of wasting funds and donations by prosecuting hunts for political reasons.

The report, carried out last year, made 33 recommendations on the charity's investigation and prosecution activity.

It advised that the RSPCA should continue its role as a

prosecuting body, but the organisation accepted it needed to adapt its approach to law enforcement.

One of the criticisms levelled at the RSPCA was the amount of money spent on prosecutions under the Hunting Act.

In 2012, the RSPCA spent £327,000 prosecuting the Heythrop Hunt, in Oxfordshire.

David Bowles, of the RSPCA, said: "We have listened to Stephen Wooler and have acted on his recommendation to adopt a clear policy on how we deal

with cases specifically against traditional hunts. We will still look into allegations, before passing the evidence to the police, who will be invited to complete the investigation before handing the case to the CPS."

Tim Bonner, of the Countryside Alliance, said: "The RSPCA is in an extremely difficult position as a political campaigning organisation and as a prosecutor. We have long argued it makes it almost impossible for them to make objective decisions on prosecutions."

Dressage

Adeline and Parzival
not on Dutch team

DUTCH dressage duo Adeline Cornelissen and Parzival will not be competing at the European Dressage Championships next month.

The rider withdrew her top horse from the 2015 Dutch dressage championships (17-19 July), saying he was "not fit to compete". It was the final Dutch team selection trial.

The combination, who were pipped to Olympic gold in London by Charlotte Dujardin and Valegro, have had a difficult couple of seasons. The horse was off for several months in 2013 with a cardiac arrhythmia but were in the bronze medal-winning team at the 2014 World Equestrian Games.

Edward Gal on Glock's Undercover, Hans Peter Minderhoud on Johnson, Diederik van Silfhout on Arlando, and Patrick van der Meer on Uzzo make up the squad.

Europeans

GBR driving and
reining squads named

THE British driving and reining squads for the FEI European Championships have been chosen.

Representing Team GBR in the driving at Aachen (19-22 August), will be Dick Lane, Karen Basset and Wilf Bowman-Ripley. Reserve is Pippa Basset.

The squad was chosen following the final selection event at Sandringham in Norfolk (26-28 June).

Also heading to the championships is Great Britain's reining squad, who were chosen on 15 July.

Francesca Sternberg, Doug Allen, Shane Borland and Josh Collins will compete in Aachen from 14-16 August.

Farewell to...

Chris White

FORMER British Horse Society (BHS) bridleways officer Chris White died on 3 July, aged 79.

She was responsible for creating many circular riding routes in the south east and one of her triumphs was preventing an existing bridleway from being diverted by several miles.

An active member of Endurance GB, Chris also took part in the Golden Horseshoe Ride in Exmoor.

Chris leaves her husband Alan and children Maggie, Helen and Neville.

What is the future of driving at
the World Equestrian Games?

How can the prohibitive costs of travelling four-in-hand teams be overcome, and how can driving attract more spectators? Sarah Radford reports

The background

CALLS to include singles driving at Bromont's World Equestrian Games (WEG) in 2018 have been voiced as part of a wider discussion on the future of the sport.

Following the FEI Sports Forum (27-28 April), the chairman of the Canadian driving committee, Simon Rosenman, petitioned the FEI to incorporate one-horse drivers in a bid to tackle affordability issues when WEG is held outside Europe.

Currently, only four-in-hand teams are included, but costs to transport five horses, two carriages and equipment from Europe are prohibitive — for WEG 2010 in Kentucky they were estimated at around £70,000 per driver.

Simon said: "While it has been said four-in-hand driving is the top of our sport, 2018 is mentioned as unaffordable for many driving nations. Single horses offer a possibility spectators can relate to and will do more to promote growth in the sport, especially in the years leading to these games."

The cost for European drivers to travel to Kentucky prompted the reintroduction of the FEI European Championships in 2011 after a 32-year hiatus.

What the experts say

BETTINA DE RHAM, FEI director of driving, reining and vaulting, said that despite the expense, there was still a strong feeling that four-in-hand driving should remain as the showcase for the discipline.

"Four-in-hand driving is very popular with spectators and media alike, thanks to its exciting format and show of horsemanship," she said.

British team chef d'equipe Zoe Morgan said expense was



likely to prove a barrier to sending a team to Bromont.

"We will be going through the selection procedures, but realistically it's unlikely," she said.

The proposed format changes for four-in-hand driving at WEG (see "what next") have been broadly welcomed by competitors, who see the marketability of the sport needs to be better.

"People keep thinking about expense but you need to think about what's good for the public and sport with the horse teams," said reigning world champion Boyd Exell.

Zoe acknowledged the sport has already undergone massive changes since its development in the early 1970s, and that continued progress is necessary.

"You need spectators to attract sponsors to fund better quality of horses — anything that attracts spectators has to be a good thing," she said.

Proposals to make more of the dressage and cones phases are already being absorbed at national level, with Lowther trialling adaptations to its cones format.

"We're not a spectator sport; in national competition the budget is run on entry fees alone," said George Bowman, whose son, also called George, runs Lowther.

"If you can get people then everything follows," he added. "Cameras follow, trade stands do a good trade. Having a crowd brings the best out of horse and man."

WHAT NEXT?

PROPOSALS put forward by Károly Fugli, chairman of the FEI driving committee, at the FEI Sports Forum include:

- Competition to be held over three days, not four
- Minimum 20 athletes
- On dressage day, the team competition to consist of either an individual test to music or two drivers from each nation performing a pas de deux
- Changes to the cones format, including the possibility of a "jump-off"-style round against the clock, with seconds converted into penalties for the top 10 drivers. Course to include two "obstacles", similar to indoor driving trials
- Team composition of two athletes per team and no drop score, plus one individual

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Photography: Kevin Sparrow

Claire Rollitt

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Toni Arlett-Johnson

Laura Collett

"Magic is really useful to support my training of some of the more anxious and highly strung horses. It helps them to concentrate and focus so they become more attentive to me. With Magic I can ride more effectively, which results in a talented horse being able to perform with an improved confidence. It can't get much better than that!"

"Magic helps control the nervous energy to enable my horses to focus and concentrate to perform at their best"

Jay Halim

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UAE ban lifted by FEI

After a suspension due to "major horse welfare issues" and "non compliance" with rules, the FEI has come to an agreement with the UAE's national federation. **Amy Mathieson** reports

THE UAE will be able to compete in FEI events once again, after the national federation's suspension was lifted this week (27 July).

The Emirates Equestrian Federation (EEF) was suspended in March after an investigation into "major horse welfare issues" and "non-compliance with FEI rules and regulations" in endurance.

However, the FEI has now said an agreement between the FEI bureau and the EEF "guarantees" that horse welfare will be "fully respected and that FEI rules will be stringently enforced".

After work between the two parties, an "extensive list" of actions have been agreed upon (see box, below).

The EEF will also support a research project to evaluate the causes of injuries linked to the design of desert endurance courses.

The EEF's Taleb Dhaher Al Mheiri said: "We take our responsibility seriously. It is our goal to pursue excellence while promoting the growth of the sport and safeguarding the welfare of equine and human athletes."

The UAE will be able to take part in events again, after a suspension was lifted



• THE FEI has commissioned the Equestrian Community Integrity Unit to conduct an extensive inquiry into allegations of fake events and duplicate results in the UAE.

This was not part of the suspension and was dealt with independently. However, the report is now being reviewed by the FEI and will be submitted to the FEI Tribunal for further action. Sanctions will be taken against

any FEI officials found to be involved and all duplicated results will be annulled.

The EEF is "restructuring its organisational policies" to ensure that similar events cannot occur again. If there are breaches, the suspension could be reinstated and the 2016 FEI World Endurance Championships, which are due to be held in Dubai in mid-December next year, could be withdrawn from the UAE.

Under the agreement, the EEF must ensure that:

- Protocols are put in place to avoid equine fatalities
- Applicable rest periods are respected
- Horses on rest periods are blocked from entry in national events
- Use of prohibited fluid administration and any substances prohibited under the FEI equine anti-doping and controlled

- medication regulations in and around the field of play and at the vet gate is prevented
- Prohibited substitution of horses is prevented
- Prohibited vehicles on the field of play are prevented
- Any individual or horse suspended by the

FEI is automatically blocked by the EEF IT system from competing at national events

- The role and authority of officials in carrying out their duties is respected
- FEI rules on post mortems are adhered to and, where possible, the same procedure is applied in the event of fatalities at national competitions

- A national independent governance advisor, approved by the FEI, is appointed
- Conflicts of interest are avoided
- Distribution of prize money is in accordance with the FEI-approved schedule
- Rules for national endurance events in the UAE are fully compliant with the FEI rules

Showjumping

Steve Guerdat allowed to compete again



OLYMPIC champion Steve Guerdat is free to compete again after a provisional suspension imposed last week (21 July) was lifted on Monday (27 July), *writes Amy Mathieson.*

London 2012 gold medalist Nino Des Buissonnets tested positive for banned substances codeine and oripavine, as well as controlled medication morphine at the CSIO5* at La Baule on 17 May. Steve's other mount, Nasa, tested positive for codeine and morphine, with traces of oripavine, but not enough for a positive test on the latter.

However, Nino Des Buissonnets (pictured, left), with whom he has been shortlisted for the Swiss team at the European Championships, remains provisionally suspended until 19 September.

Last week Steve said he was "surprised and

deeply saddened" by the positive results.

On 23 July the Swiss rider had a preliminary hearing with the FEI Tribunal to request the lifting of the provisional suspension. On Monday (27 July) the FEI confirmed this was a success.

"The decision is mainly based on the scientific evidence presented by the persons responsible which suggests the likelihood of food contamination," read an FEI statement.

"While the Tribunal lifted the suspensions on the rider, requests for the lifting of the suspension on the horses were denied. Irrespective of the source of the prohibited substances, banned substances had been found in the horses' systems and it is the FEI's policy to impose a provisional suspension period of two months."

Showjumping

Gold for Tripple X at Pan Ams

LONDON 2012 British team gold medal-winner Tripple X III has scored again, this time with the Canadian team, *writes Amy Mathieson*.

Ben Maher's former ride partnered Canada's Tiffany Foster at the Pan American Games in Toronto last week (23 July).

The 13-year-old stallion was bought by Eric Lamaze's Torrey Pines Stables last April, following a dispute between Ben and his long-term backers Mike and Emma Phillips.

Canadian 2008 Olympic gold medallist Eric then sold the horse on to Artisan Farms LLC, for whom he and Tiffany ride.

Tiffany's victorious teammates were Yann Candele (Showgirl), Eric Lamaze (Coco Bongo) and Ian Millar (Dixon) (pictured, right).

Argentina secured silver. The USA – which had won gold in both dressage and eventing (news 18 and 23 July) at the Pan Ams – took the bronze medal.

"Captain Canada" Ian Millar, who has competed at a record 10 Olympics, said: "We wanted this so badly for our team and our country."

"The last horse [from Argentina] had to have a fault of some kind. It came down to a fraction of the second in the end."

Meanwhile in the individual championships (25 July) gold was won by US rider McLain Ward and Rothchild, while silver went to the



Venezuelan Andres Roderiguez (Darlon Van Groenhove). The USA's Lauren Hough and Ohlala took bronze.

McLain said: "I knew the courses would get bigger as the week went on and that would suit Rothchild. He's a blood horse and a stamina test suits him, but I knew I couldn't make a mistake – it was a tough day's work."

Olympic qualification was also hanging in the balance, with Canada and Argentina claiming the two team spots for Rio 2016. Two individual qualifying spots have been earned by both Colombia and Venezuela, and one each by Uruguay and Peru.

Legal

Rider wins accident case

A rider whose horse bolted when a motorcyclist drove too close has won a case which solicitors say is a "step forward" for other riders, *writes Lucy Elder*.

Sarah Roberts was hacking along a bridleway in Harlow Woods, Mansfield, Notts, on 10 November 2013, when the bike passed her, causing her horse – Sky – to bolt.

Ms Roberts fell and broke her ankle.

The five-year-old part-bred thoroughbred was physically uninjured, but Ms Roberts said he lost his confidence completely.

"I think he must have stumbled – I don't remember coming off," Ms Roberts told *H&H*.

A claim was then rejected by the Motor Insurers' Bureau (MIB), which is responsible for compensating the victims of accidents caused by untraced or uninsured drivers.

The MIB said that as the motorbike was being ridden on a bridleway, it was not likely to be a road bike that would need insurance.

HorseSolicitor, Ms Roberts' legal representatives, argued that under the Highways Act and Road Traffic Act, a bridleway is a public place or road, and that a witness had seen the motorbike had L-plates, which showed it was a road bike.

It was argued during the case, which finished on 29 June, that the judgement extends the MIB's liability to victims of incidents involving all vehicles. This is provided they are being used in a manner consistent with their normal function. The case was accepted by the MIB.

Final compensation figures have not yet been confirmed.

A spokesperson from HorseSolicitor said: "This paves the way for future applicants to recover compensation. We still have some way to go before a definitive rule has been set, but this is a step in the right direction."



Pictures by Peter Nixon and Tony Parkes

Showjumping

Pius Schwizer loses five top rides

SWISS showjumper Pius Schwizer has lost the ride on five of his top horses, after his partnership with owners Quinoa Stables ended suddenly earlier this month.

The horses – Caretina De Joter, Living The Dream, Amira, Dundee Vd Dwerse Hagen and Newton De Haut Bois – were moved from Irish rider Cameron Hanley's yard to Pius' in January this year.

Caretina De Joter and Living The Dream will now be going to Global Champions Tour supremo Jan Tops in the Netherlands. Caretina De Joter will ridden by his wife, Edwina Tops Alexander, but it is unknown who will take on Living The Dream as yet.

The remaining three horses will be campaigned by young Swiss rider Morgane Dassio.

"Owner Eleonore Paschoud stated the pressure that came along with the huge success was too much for her," said Pius.

Veterinary

Sudden death information needed

A group of riders and vets from the University of Bern, Switzerland, is studying collapse and sudden death in horses and is looking for information.

"If you have ridden, trained or treated a horse that collapsed or died during or shortly after exercise we want to ask you to please fill in a questionnaire. We know this is a difficult, but your input is very valuable," said a spokesman for the group.

• **Names of people and horses will remain confidential, visit: www.surveymonkey.com/s/SCDrider-trainer**

Eventing

New home for BE under-18 championships

BRITISH EVENTING'S (BE) under-18 championships will now be held at Frickley Park.

The National Saddle Centre BE100u18 regional team championships and the KBIS ONu18 regional championships will now be held at the South Yorkshire venue in July 2016.

BE cited the venue's accessibility and existing facilities as reasons for its choice.

"Frickley Park is not only a stunning location, but also very well located just off the A1 near Doncaster, so it's an excellent central location for those coming from around the country," said Jane Peters, chairman of BE's national under-18 programme.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Robert Smith, p22-23

“I was always going to come back to riding and when I started again, it was like everything was back to normal”

▲ AMERICAN PHAROAH

The champion racehorse who became the first Triple Crown winner for 37 years last month (6 June) will be appearing in a special feature in US *Vogue* magazine.



▲ GB POLOCROSSE

The British team has risen to number four in the world rankings after finishing fourth in the 2015 polocrosse world cup.



▲ JENNIFER DONALD

H&H's showjumping and racing editor gave birth to a boy, William Ewan Henry (pictured left), on Tuesday 7 July. William weighed in at 9lbs 8ozs. Jennifer said she is “delighted”.

▲ MICRODAVE

The tiny American miniature foal who picked up countless fans when his birth was reported on www.horseandhound.co.uk last month (23 June) has partnered up with an equally small companion. Microdave now shares his stable with a dwarf micropig named Bean from a neighbouring farm to his yard in Haysden, Kent.

GOOD WEEK BAD WEEK

▼ JENNY NOLAN

A large tree branch crushed the joint organiser of Eriddle Horse Trials' car earlier this month (19 July).



▼ A SPOOKED SWIMMER

Firefighters spent more than two hours leading a horse to safety after he became stuck in a canal in Tyldesley, Wigan (13 July). Crews used a boat and ropes to lead the bay horse to an area where he could safely climb out.

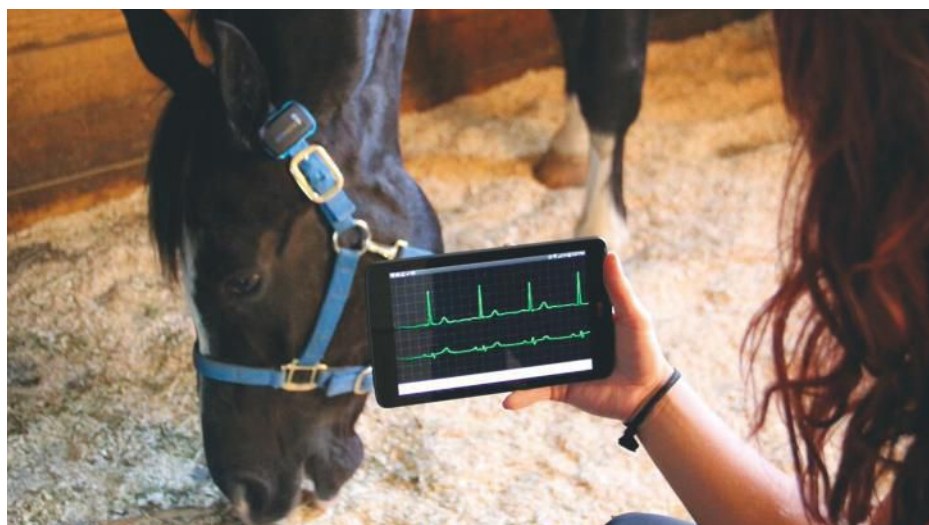


▼ A BOXER PUPPY

Hugo, a 10-month-old boxer, managed to swallow a 21in riding crop. Vets in Newton Abbott, Devon, were able to remove the whip and Hugo is now recovering at home.

▼ A PLYMOUTH DRIVER

A motorist is appealing for help after finding his car badly damaged. A witness claimed a frightened horse “wearing red shin pads” damaged the car.



And finally: long-distance care

MISSING your horse while at work or when on holiday? Owners can now check up on their equine companion wherever they are in the world, thanks to a new app.

SeeHorse is a small device worn on a horse's headcollar or bridle that monitors the vital signs of the animal.

The product can send information via Bluetooth to the SeeHorseCloud app on an owner's phone or computer.

“SeeHorse provides multiple features so you can stay connected with your horse,”

creator Peter Mankowski told *H&H*.

“It is a 100% green energy device — if your horse is active, it recharges the device just by their movement.

“In addition to seeing all data in real time, users can go back to a horse's account and retrieve historical data.”

The creation of SeeHorse began in June and is now close to completion.

“We need to pre-sell 500 units to finish the design,” added Mr Mankowski.

• For information visit: seehorse.ca

DIARY 30 July - 6 August

Watch eventing

See the CIC3* at Burgham Horse Trials, Northumberland, from 30 July-2 August. www.burghamhorsetrials.co.uk

Go to the theatre

Based on racing writer Roger Mortimer's letters, play *Dear Lupin* comes to London. www.apollotheatrelondon.co.uk

Glorious Goodwood

The festival runs from 28 July-1 August. www.goodwood.com

See dressage

Watch para dressage riders compete in the CPEDI with classes from one- to three-star at Bishop Burton, Yorks, from 4-9 August. www.bishopburton.ac.uk



3 OF THE BEST...

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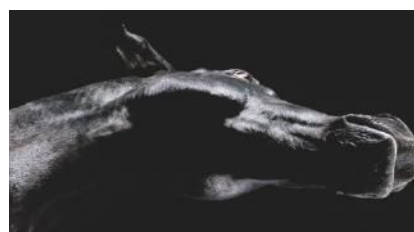
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Letters



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BRITISH-BRED, AND PROUD

Sir – I enjoyed your interview with Leslie Law (16 July). The horse Tout De Suite – with whom Leslie has been so successful – was bred by us. He was registered as Treveat with Sport Horse Breeding of Great Britain and British Eventing, but his name was changed when he was imported to America and registered with the FEI.

He has classic British breeding – he is by Catherston Liberator out of Welton Edwina, the full sister of Welton Envoy (Blyth Tait's Kentucky CCI4* winner) by Welton Crackerjack. We should celebrate these top British-bred horses.

Vin Jones
Preci Event Horses, Leics

TRAVELLING ACROSS THE USA

Sir – Regarding the article on travelling across the USA (transport special, 16 July), I too have had experience of hauling my Welsh ponies and cobs long distance to attend Welsh Pony and Cob Society of America (WPCSA) shows, using a similar gooseneck trailer and pick-up truck.

When I lived in north west Arkansas, the nearest Welsh show was in Tulsa, a three- to four-hour drive away, while "local" shows in Louisiana and Missouri required a four- to six-hour journey. I regularly travelled 800 miles or more, driving over two days and staying overnight with friends, to attend shows as far away as Wisconsin, New England, Florida and Georgia.

Now when I see that it takes four hours to get to the Royal Welsh Show or the National Pony Society

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Gaining the confidence to compete

As a happy hacker, last year I purchased a big Irish horse to do just that.

He proved to be a fabulous ride and although I had never ventured into a show ring, I took him to a small local show, with the wrong-coloured jacket, no gloves and a snaffle. Despite this, we managed a respectful fourth. I felt that I had been criticised and was rather deflated – but I continued and acquired a new hacking jacket, gloves and double bridle. We started to win a few red rosettes.

With the Festival of Hunting (report, p76) on my doorstep I decided to watch the professionals and pick up some tips,

and found myself chatting to an impeccably dressed lady who explained types of hunters, their way of going, and what she felt a judge would be looking for. She also gave me some tips for success with my horse.

I later discovered I had been talking to Linda Brudenell, the well-respected showing judge. I feel privileged to have met this wonderful lady who has given me confidence to enjoy and continue competing in show hunter classes. To all those would-be show-horse owners, get your equines spruced up and out there.

CLAIRE MCGARVIE
Benwick, Cambs

The writer of the letter of the week wins a bottle of Champagne Taittinger

Dressage Championships at Addington I remind myself that it really isn't that far – although the price of diesel here makes me think twice about travelling very far from home these days.

Amanda Williams
Exeter, Devon

PLEASE PASS WIDE AND SLOW

Sir – I've been watching as the simmering conflict between cyclists and horse riders has escalated – mostly via online debating platforms and social networks – in recent months.

The more measured commentators quite wisely suggest that education (of both sides) is the key to helping reduce incidences of horses being spooked and injured by passing cyclists. Our client, the

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA), is leading the way with its new poster campaign aimed at cyclists: "How to pass horses".

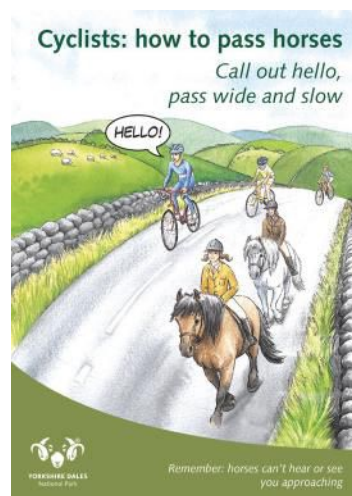
Its slogan "Call out hello, pass wide and slow" is simple yet effective.

Let's cross fingers that it helps prevent accidents, and that other national parks and local authorities follow the YDNPA's example.

Niki Lathwell
Lathwell & Associates,
Tiverton, Devon

PASSIONATE ABOUT ANIMAL WELFARE

Sir – The government's commitment to hold a



vote on relaxing the hunting ban, despite the delay, is most welcome and should be supported by MPs and peers regardless of any party.

All agree that fox numbers need to be controlled. The other week I

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spoke to someone on the train who happened to work for the League Against Cruel Sports. I did my best to try to persuade her that the league should drop its opposition to hunting and concentrate on issues such as dog fighting and the import of exotic species.

I challenge those who are genuine about animal welfare to work with the hunting fraternities, who are passionate about animal welfare.

*John Barstow
Pulborough,
West Sussex*

INSPIRATIONAL RDA SPIRIT

Sir – I must write to express thanks for such a good response to our group's problems encountered on the way to the Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) national championships.

The horsebox with two ponies and two helpers was caught up in the enormous traffic jam on the M6.

The four riders were on site, and as it became obvious that the ponies would not arrive in time, Sheila, our regional chairman, and Jane, the instructor, coordinated with the team in the office to source suitable ponies and to rearrange riding times.

The spirit of the RDA was inspiring, with groups offering their ponies and help for our riders, resulting in them all successfully taking part.

Huge thanks to all who stepped in on the day, and to the strangers who lent their ponies.

*Pamela Rigby MBE, Chairman,
Mid Cheshire RDA*

NEXT WEEK



Royal International Horse Show

16 PAGE SPECIAL REPORT

The King George V Gold Cup, Nations Cup, all the showing action and eventers' challenge

HORSE HERO

Valegro stripped bare

FEATURES

The rise of multi-talented polo ponies

DRESSAGE

Keysoe and The Cabin

VET CLINIC

Treating recurrent uveitis

EVENTING

Burgham, Wilton and Cholmondeley Castle

COLUMNISTS

Pammy Hutton,
Mark Phillips and views
from the RIHS

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'The best of my fun, I owe it to...'

Watching...

Channel 4 Racing. I'm glued to National Hunt racing and will watch the Cheltenham Festival for all four days on TV.

My favourite pub...

The meat dishes at The Bell at Alresford in Hampshire are amazing. I'm a massive puddings person but I don't usually have room there.

Indulging in...

Chocolate. I can't get enough. Creme eggs and Freddos in particular – we buy them by the box load. I only like cheap chocolate.

Avoiding cities...

I don't really do towns – there are too many people – and I avoid clothes shopping at all costs. The only places I like going are the yard and shows. I'm the most boring person you've ever known!

Reading...

Horse & Hound is about the only thing I read. I also like sport biographies – the trainer Sir Henry Cecil's was really good.

Holidays...

My one holiday a year is going



SAM ROBERTS

The showing supremo on avoiding clothes shopping at all costs, rewarding herself with a McDonald's and being glued to *Channel 4 Racing*

skiing in January. I love going fast.

Tucking into...

If we win – it doesn't matter how big or small – we allow ourselves a McDonald's or a Burger King on the way home. If we don't win, we're not allowed it and have to make do with what's on the lorry. It doesn't matter if we're the only one in the class – if we get a red rosette, we get a McDonald's.

My first pony...

Spindle did everything from Pony

Club to hunting. I think that first pony is invaluable for kids. You have to enjoy it. If your first experience isn't good then you probably aren't going to continue.

Steering clear of pollen...

I get hayfever and have to take pills to control it. Some showgrounds are really bad; at Suffolk showground I can hardly see the jumps, let alone jump them. I often miss a fence there and it's generally because my eyes are watering so much that I can't see.

Learning from others...

When I'm at shows I try and find time to watch others in the ring – from any of the classes. If you stand there for long enough you'll learn something.

Laughing at silly blunders...

I have to go wrong once a year in a worker; there'll always be one class where I miss a fence. I say to the owners that I'll give them their money back for that class!

Finding time to watch...

Other sports. I like watching the grand prix dressage to music at Olympia and after watching the showjumping at the 2012 Olympics I was really buzzing, seeing horses and riders in action at the top level.

Memorable wins...

Taking the supreme native championship title for the third time at Olympia last year with Moelview Prince Consort. That's everything I'm about – producing a young pony and taking it to the top.

Remembering what I'd tell my 15-year-old self...

Don't be so hard on yourself. I'm ridiculous – I take everything so seriously. I could tell you about four things I could have done better at Olympia last year. H&H
● NEXT WEEK: Alice Oppenheimer



MY PLAN B: if it hadn't been showing...

I was in the cadet force as a kid and had an absolute ball – so I think I might have gone into the Army. If it hadn't been horses, it certainly would have had to be something outdoor and hard-core, involving exercise.



Pictures by Paul Quagliana and Peter Nixon. Words by Madeleine Pitt

Outstanding Results



Photograph by
Kevin Sparrow

WG Rubins Nite competing at
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ridden by Hayley Watson-Greaves

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£895,000 John Smale & Co, 01271 342000, www.johnsmale.com



Burton Farm **WILTSHIRE**

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DORSAL EXTENSIONS

from around the third to 11th thoracic vertebrae, counting from chest to tail, make up the withers; the longest, the sixth, is the most vulnerable

SHOULDER BLADES

not shown, as these cover the first few ribs and withers

This diagram shows the spinous processes of the withers, to which the ligaments and muscles needed to support the horse's head, neck and shoulders are attached

Break point

The structure of the withers makes this bony ridge vulnerable to bruising or fracture, especially if a horse rears and falls over backwards. **Graham Hunter MRCVS** explains

THE withers are formed by dorsal extensions between the horse's shoulder blades, from around the third to the 11th thoracic vertebrae.

At their highest point, approximately midway, these spinous processes can be up to 30cm long. The height of these bony projections provides significant attachment for the nuchal ligament (which runs from the occipital bone to the withers, and is essential for any horse to lift and lower his head) and the substantial muscle mass required to support the weight of the horse's head, neck and shoulders.

The fact that the top of the withers

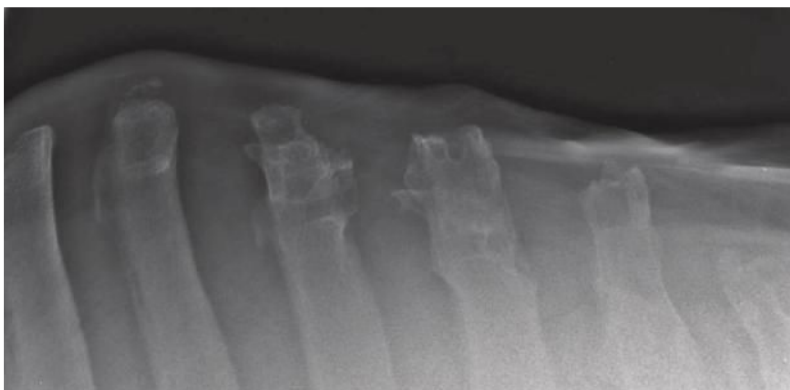
is always above the shoulder blades makes the area prone to injury. A horse's natural survival instinct leads him to evade threat. As a result of this response, a frightened horse may rear up and flip over backwards, leading to fracture of the spinous processes.

Fractures can also result from traumatic incidents such as getting stuck in a fence, falling into a ditch or becoming wedged under the breast bar in a trailer, or perhaps during a colic episode or a seizure. Injury has even been known to occur when a horse falls because of other neurological problems which have left him weak or uncoordinated.

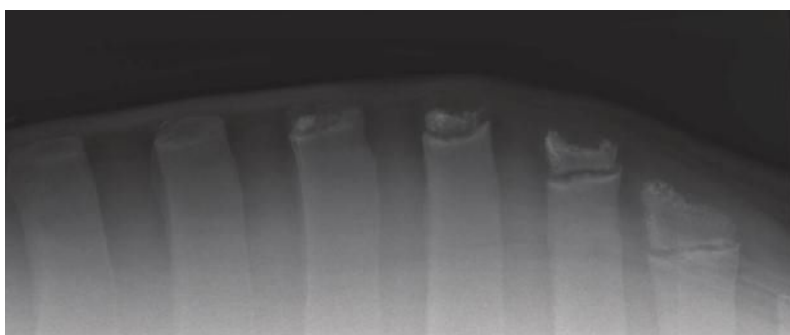
A traumatic incident may not always



Nana Dalton's eventer Elite Syncopation's 'bizarre' shaped withers



An X-ray showing a healed fracture, leaving a change in shape over the dorsal spinous processes



Here the separate centres of ossification at the top of the spinous processes are not fractures

be witnessed, and sometimes an owner will report finding their horse in the stable or paddock with pain and swelling over the withers.

Wither fractures can also cause neck stiffness, with the horse unable to extend his neck to the ground or to either side. Forelimb lameness may be seen, with a very short, stiff gait. Where significant neurological signs are present, an extensive neurological examination of the whole horse with appropriate imaging should be performed.

Standing tall

FRACTURE of the withers tends to be easy to spot on radiographs (X-rays) as there are generally a number of spinous processes involved, typically between two and seven. The most common of the spinous processes to be injured is the sixth – the tallest and therefore the first to hit the ground when a horse falls over backwards.

On a lateral (side) X-ray, there is often what looks like a separate piece of bone at the top of each spinous process. These should not be mistaken for fractures – they are what we call “separate centres of ossification” and appear in a horse of any age.

Nearly all fractures are complete across each process and the fracture piece is generally displaced deeper into the horse and off to one side.

As long as there is no open wound, initial treatment will generally involve anti-inflammatory drugs such as bute.

The injury should be iced and the horse put on box rest for four to eight weeks, depending on the number and severity of the fractures.

The horse should be fed from chest height so he doesn't have to stretch to the floor to eat. Unlike fractures in some areas of the body, which might require immobilisation, this is not generally needed with injury to the withers.

If an open wound is present, it should be cleaned and flushed out, and any contamination or bone fragments removed. In some cases antibiotics may be required. A secure dressing may be needed if the wound is severe.

Healing of these fractures is generally uneventful and horses can be returned to work in four to six months. Complications can occasionally occur, however, particularly if the injury was associated with an open wound. Infection can result and if it persists could affect the bone and result in delayed healing and a chronic discharging tract.

If this occurs, surgery is best performed – under standing sedation – to remove the infected tissue and bone, including the damaged top of the affected spinous processes.

In some horses, fractures can be associated with persistent wither pain. Surgery may be necessary to remove the fractured pieces of bone.

Long-term prospects

THE long-term prognosis for these injuries is extremely good, with nearly

FAMOUS COMEBACKS...

- Clifton Lush (pictured, below), who was third at Badminton this year with Jock Paget, broke his withers when he was spooked in the paddock by a thunderstorm and fell under a gate. His withers are now very flat in shape as a result.

- A nasty accident on the way to the field caused the same injury to Nana Dalton's eventer Elite Syncopation (pictured, far left). It's thought that pain from a tooth abscess made him rear up and fall backwards onto a hardcore surface.

“There were visible cuts on his withers,” recalls Nana, who had to wait an agonising 10 minutes before he regained consciousness. “He fractured four vertebrae, which later became infected and parts of bone had to be removed. He now looks bizarre but he's on great form – we're aiming for Pau four-star this autumn.”

- Alex Coats suspects that her showjumper Quisto Van De Helle Z slipped and fell in the stable. She found him one morning sweaty and in obvious pain, with a split poll and sore, swollen withers. The stallion was reluctant to lower his head to eat. Quisto had fractured seven spinous processes. He was box-rested before being brought very slowly back into work, returning to showjumping a year later.

“He wears the same saddle but with an orthopaedic pad that's built up slightly in some areas to compensate for any unevenness,” says Alex, who headed the area trial with Quisto at the Royal Cornwall in June.



THE VET

GRAHAM HUNTER MRCVS, an XLEquine vet, is the senior equine vet at Arden House Veterinary Practice in Aberdeen, where he is a director. Although interested in all aspects of equine medicine and surgery, Graham's main focus and passion over recent years has been very much based around orthopaedics and surgical cases. www.ardenehouse.co.uk 01224 740700

all horses regaining their full athletic ability after six months. Most end up with chronic thickening and flatter, lower withers, and so the greatest long-term issues relate to saddle fit.

If the withers end up low and asymmetric, the saddler has a tough job. Solutions may involve croup, point or balance straps. Adjustments to the flocking or altering the pressure in air-filled panels can help prevent saddle drift.

Other injuries to the withers can include bites and rug or tack rubs, which can lead to local skin infections or abscesses.

There is a fluid bursa that sits just under the nuchal ligament at the withers. If infection of this bursa occurs, chronic recurrent infection – called “fistulous withers” – can result. A few years ago this condition was often caused by the bacteria *brucella*, which also caused brucellosis in cattle. Thankfully, both conditions have now almost been eradicated. **H&H**

Robert Smith

After three years out of 'the groove', the showjumper tells Amy Mathieson why he's back and hungrier than ever to succeed

“WHEN you're doing the same things over and over, you need a bit of a break to freshen up,” states Robert Smith firmly. After three years away from the competition circuit, Robert has returned and is ready to stamp his mark.

And it's not some half-hearted comeback either — he is aiming at Rio.

He's been to an Olympics before — finishing fourth individually and highest of the Brits in Athens in 2004. But now, at 54, he's hungry to secure a spot in next year's main event.

For the past three years, Robert has dropped off the radar, moving to Holland, training and dealing horses, but not riding very much.

“I just lost interest in it,” he says. “Some of the horses went off, some of the main ones were sold, so I just thought I'd take a step back for a bit.”

Almost akin to rock stars, showjumpers at the top level are constantly “on tour”, moving from country to country for shows — a glamorous lifestyle in theory, but after three decades, is the reality a little different?

“Don't get me wrong, the show circuit is a good life, but as you get older, you feel you're just going round and round,” he says.

“I was always going to come back to riding and when I started again, it was like everything was back to normal. That break had given me the edge — you have to want to do it otherwise you're just going through the motions.”

He used the time away to help establish his daughter, Chloe, who is competing at junior and young rider level. He also comes back to England with his fiancée, rider Raffaella Guy, also originally from Yorkshire, whom he met in Spain at a show.

The comeback trail

A taste of success earlier this year in Spain was enough to refocus Robert's mind. And with around 15 horses at his Warwickshire base, he is turning his attention to producing winners. However, despite the satisfaction this can bring, ultimately it's the competing he loves.

“It's nice when you find a couple of young horses and take the time with them, then all of a sudden they're jumping at the top,” he says.

“But I'm extremely competitive, I like the win.”

Now he is “back in the groove”, there's the bigger picture to aim at — with Rio at the top of it.

“Obviously that's in my mind,” he says. “I need to get back and do some big teams and championships though. And I think I have horses that are very close to being able to do that.”

By these he means Bavi and Candy Boy, who both had successful Windsors, finishing second in classes, and Ilton — his new favourite and a stallion he believes has what it takes.

However, Bavi picked up a small strain behind after Windsor, ruling her out for a couple of months.

“I didn't want to rush her back and take any chances,” he says. “It's frustrating, as I think she could have made teams. She's a lovely horse, very easy to ride and the sort that keeps improving.”

“Those top horses are very hard to get and there's always someone who wants them, but I'm not looking to sell her.”

But it's Ilton who is the apple of Robert's eye, as he shows me around his Warwickshire base on the hottest day of the year.

“He could be an Olympic horse,” he says proudly, as he stops the horse walker to show off the 16.3hh bay seven-year-old by Heartbreaker.

The horse is part-owned by Robert, alongside Karina Riley.

“He's a very good jumper and very careful,” he says. “He was a bit wild and unruly, but he's calmed down a bit now. He's a promising prospect.”

Making it pay

WITH so much money involved in showjumping now, the sport is becoming more of a commercial enterprise.

As well as training — his past pupils include Ben Maher and Tim Gredley — Robert has also set up a horsebox company with Raffaella, and is planning to run some shows this year.

“Showjumping is not a hobby any more,” he says. “You have to do a bit of everything, one thing helps the other.”

So with Rio the goal, what are the short-term aims?

“I just want to keep everything progressing and working hard. I want to make Ilton and Cimano E [an eight-year-old grey gelding] into good horses, and I'm looking to expand the yard and find more to bring on. It's good to have the chance to do it again and enjoy it.” **H&H**

● **NEXT WEEK:** Aoife Clark

ROBERT ON....

His career choice

Growing up it was always about showjumping, that was all there was. I never thought to do anything else.

His favourite show

The Great Yorkshire — it's where I grew up. I won my first big grand prix there when I was 15, and the Cock O'the North was the one thing I always wanted to win, so I was thrilled when I did.

His top horse of all time

I'd say Mr Springfield is probably the best horse I've had. We finished fourth individually at the Athens Olympics, as well being on winning Nations Cup teams and taking third at the Spruce Meadows grand prix. It would be nice to have another horse like him.



Move it like... Gareth Hughes

The Warwickshire-based dressage rider on trusting your trainer and choosing the right horse

Impressing the judges

- Frame, rhythm and presenting the horse to the judge are the most important elements in the arena.
- When you go down the centre line, it's not about the feel, it's the picture — judges judge what they see. So think about the lines you're riding and the presentation of the movements.

GARETH HUGHES believes the harder you work, the luckier you get and a fundamental part of achieving success is to have the right guidance. Early in his career, Gareth based himself with Stephen Clarke and he now trains with Carl Hester, so he has worked with two of the most influential people in British dressage. The results speak for themselves — bronze European and silver World Championship medals.

"Everyone has a slightly different style, so look for someone you admire and watch them," says Gareth. "You have to have belief in them. When they are asking you to do something and you're unsure which way they are going with it, you have to trust them. A lot of it is watching and copying your trainer to emulate their results.

"Every day I ride, I try to ride better. You and your horse are constantly evolving. The day you think it's just going to happen is the day it gets worse. Every time you ride, you have to think about each corner and how you're presenting it, otherwise you slip into bad habits.

"That's why we have trainers on the side at a show to remind us about frame, rhythm, your body and riding the right line." **H&H**

● **NEXT WEEK:** Boyd Exell

Finding the right horse

- When I'm picking a new horse I don't get on it unless I like the look of it.
- I look for a horse that makes me smile when I'm sitting up top.
- Choose something whose natural reaction — for example sharp or laid-back — is as close to your natural riding style as possible.

Enjoying training

- If you don't enjoy the training process and only find satisfaction from your results you're going to be bitterly disappointed. With this game, you never know where you're going to end up. You have to be able to enjoy the journey. It's not about how big a horse moves, it's about how it moves and the partnership you create.



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The first impression

"The ring was full of lovely animals," says David Puttock, who judged the show pony classes with Jayne Ross at Royal Windsor this year. "But Broadgrove Only You ticked all the boxes on the day.

"What stood out about him was the elegance and charm he showed as he entered the ring with great purpose, as if he owned the entire arena. He has a superb long and relaxed walk, with beautiful natural head carriage. The rider – who was sitting perfectly in the middle of the pony – needed only a light contact to the bridle.

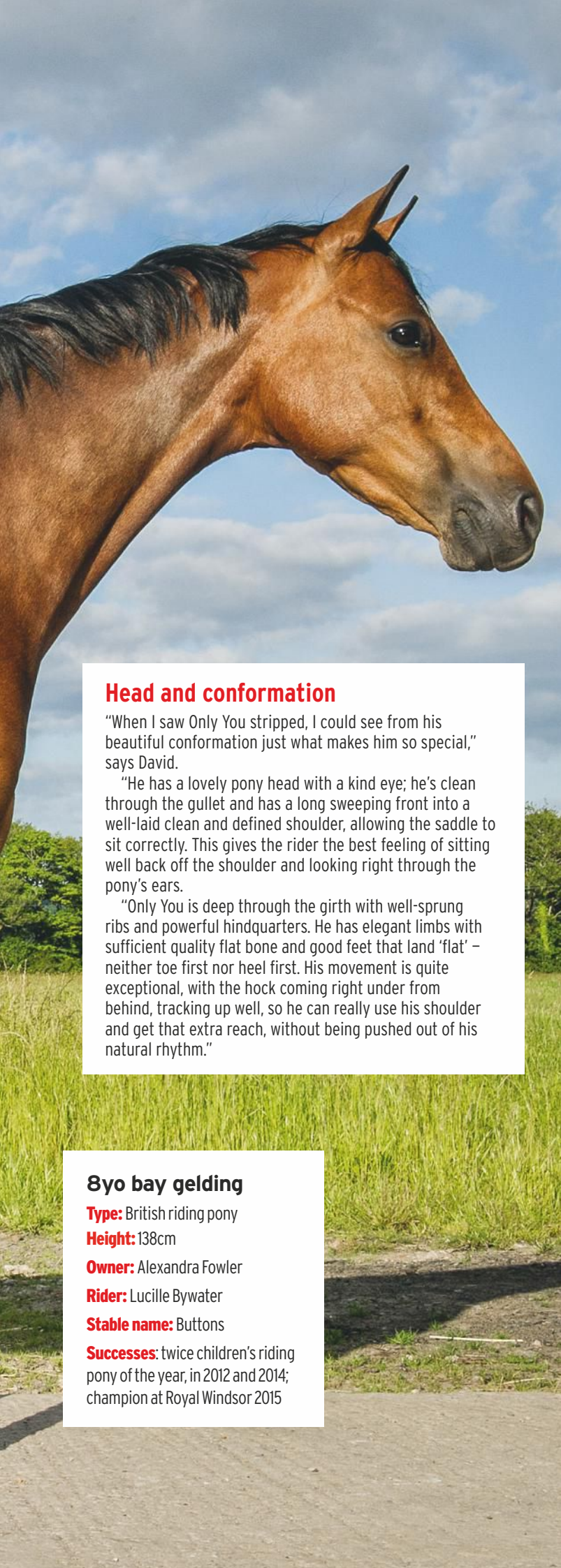
"He looked like a true show pony, who oozes quality and type, with the temperament essential in any child's pony."

The movement

"When the pony entered the class, he walked well through from behind and really used his shoulder, with a bright and alert appearance, ears pricked, a good tail carriage and a happy jockey, who looked to be enjoying herself," says David.

"Watching the class as a whole, Only You took his rider forward in a perfectly mannered way. He continued to show beautiful, balanced paces at both trot and canter, while maintaining his natural and correct outline, with supple movement throughout his body. For us, the picture was of a pony sitting up in his bridle, looking a pleasure to ride, and we had no hesitation in calling the pony in top on the initial go-round."





Broadgrove Only You

The 'perfect' children's riding pony who has a home for life

THERE is no such thing as a perfect pony. Unless your name is Alexandra Fowler and your mother bred a 138cm gelding called Broadgrove Only You.

"He really is perfect," says Alexandra. "It's not very often that you get something good enough [to win at major shows] that's completely OK to do anything and everything with at home."

Only You is certainly good enough — he won the Horse of the Year Show (HOYS) children's riding pony championship in 2012 and again in 2014; this year, he stood champion in strong company at Royal Windsor. It's quite an achievement for a home-bred pony, but the Broadgrove Stud consistently turns out winners — including the 2003 Cuddy in-hand supreme, Broadgrove Chatterbox — despite being a small stud.

"The year he was born he was the only foal we had," says Alexandra. "That's why he's called Only You. Our ponies are lovely-looking foals, then tend to be hideously ugly for a couple of years. We think the uglier they are as yearlings, the better they'll be! But my partner Pete Thomas said he thought Only You was the best we'd bred."

"At the time, I thought, 'Really?' He was about 12.3hh and had this great long neck, about two inches thick. I looked at him and thought, 'What the hell are you?'"

Alexandra backs all her mother Ann's home-breds and took her time with Only You.

"We don't do much with them as four-year-olds," she explains. "I played around backing him for a few months. At the first show I took him to I didn't realise he needed zero work, so I rode him for 20 minutes before the class. In the ring he couldn't even canter."

Four years on, Only You is still easy and needs the bare minimum of work. He is ridden at shows by Alexandra's 11-year-old niece, Lucille Bywater.

"They say you can tell a gelding and ask a mare," says Alexandra. "But you don't tell him — he wouldn't take being bullied. He likes his jolly life, all happy and lovely."

And Alexandra says he's got a home for life.

"If you owned him, you would never want to sell him," she says. "We've had offers, but he's worth more to us than any money. I could never part with him." **H&H**

● NEXT WEEK: Valegro

Head and conformation

"When I saw Only You stripped, I could see from his beautiful conformation just what makes him so special," says David.

"He has a lovely pony head with a kind eye; he's clean through the gullet and has a long sweeping front into a well-laid clean and defined shoulder, allowing the saddle to sit correctly. This gives the rider the best feeling of sitting well back off the shoulder and looking right through the pony's ears."

"Only You is deep through the girth with well-sprung ribs and powerful hindquarters. He has elegant limbs with sufficient quality flat bone and good feet that land 'flat' — neither toe first nor heel first. His movement is quite exceptional, with the hock coming right under from behind, tracking up well, so he can really use his shoulder and get that extra reach, without being pushed out of his natural rhythm."

8yo bay gelding

Type: British riding pony

Height: 138cm

Owner: Alexandra Fowler

Rider: Lucille Bywater

Stable name: Buttons

Successes: twice children's riding pony of the year, in 2012 and 2014; champion at Royal Windsor 2015

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Piggy French

European silver medallist Piggy French shows **Pippa Roome** around her yard, sharing the secrets that have made her a much-admired producer of young horses



Above: Piggy's 60x40m manège is perfect for schooling and jumping, as Hannah Norvill (on Morswood, above) and Piggy (on OBOS Cooley, below) demonstrate

It is a mark of the best producers of horses that they all have a routine — but they are also willing to make exceptions for each individual.

Piggy French's yard, perched high on a hill above the Northamptonshire countryside, and her system, are a perfect example. It's clear everyone knows what they are doing, but when asked how she manages aspects of her horses' care, her frequent reply is: "It depends on the individual."

She says: "Some horses want schooling a couple of days on the trot, others don't need that. We keep it varied, so we are educating them all the time."

The property belongs to Belinda Kier, who part-owned Piggy's former four-star ride Flying Machine, and her husband David.

"They bought the farm next door to where they live and wanted to build a yard for their daughter, Annie, for the future," says Piggy. "Before they built it they approached me to see if I'd be interested in renting it. We walked up the hill and they told me what they wanted to do and it sounded fabulous — and it is."

This was at end of the 2012 season, when Piggy was dealing with the "disappointment" — something of an understatement — of missing out on the Olympics after both her selected horses were injured.

"I was at my old yard for eight years and I have nothing but fond memories, but a change of office was exciting — it helped motivate me," she says.

Piggy was involved in the designing of this purpose-built, event-horse heaven. She and the builders, Willowbrook Construction, were shown around William Fox-Pitt's yard by his wife, Alice, to pick up handy dos and don'ts.

The one downside here is the wind.

"You can imagine how cold it is in the winter — everything freezes up and stops play quite easily," says Piggy.

We are looking out over the 60x40m manège, topped with the Andrews Bowen surface from the Olympic test event in London, and there is also a



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Pictures by Peter Nixon



three-and-a-half furlong gallop and a lunge pen.

"The school is so open it's handy to have a little cage," says Piggy, referring to the lunge pen. "We occasionally use it for riding — with a fresh one you might come in here to start with, then go out."

The property has about 26 acres and the older horses go out daily after they've been ridden from March onwards, while the younger ones live out at night and come in for the day. In the winter, the land gets wet, so the horses either go away for their holidays — "It's nice for them to be in a

Left: all horses are weighed once a month — today it's Seapattrick Dark Cruise's turn; and right, the lunge pen. Piggy was involved in the design of this purpose-built, event-horse heaven

big field and get away from the routine" — or they are in for work.

'I'm at the rebuilding stage'

THE hub of the yard is the American barn, with the "luxury" of rubber matting throughout.

"It's a well-insulated barn, cool in summer, warm in winter," she says.

Of the 24 big stables, 10 have a view on to the main passage and out of the windows at the back, while the other 14 have a single aspect. ▶



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Piggy French, International Event Rider

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"You can split the horses according to what they like," explains Piggy. "Some prefer it quieter, others like to see what's going on."

At present the yard is not full, with about 20 horses in work, and Piggy rides six to 10 a day. Last summer this was up to about 15.

"The routine varies a lot through the season," she says. "Some days you've already galloped a load by 8am, then you're off cross-country schooling

Piggy and OBOS Cooley stop to say hello to Jeffrey, her lively rescue dog

four and back to ride five. In the summer your day is the daylight hours."

The row of 10 stables is meant to be for Piggy's more permanent, top horses.

"But it's no secret that I don't have lots of four-star horses at the moment — I'm at a rebuilding stage," she says.

Meanwhile, buying and selling is a big part of Piggy's business.

"I enjoy it," she says. "Something has to keep me getting out of bed in the morning and that's either winning medals or making a living. It's been a bad time for me recently at the top end of the sport, but the horses are coming up."

"It's important for me to feel I'm achieving something for the hours of work I do, and good horses sell easily. Everyone's in the same boat, unless you are very fortunate financially. Finding the balance between keeping and selling horses is a talent in itself."

"People think I sell horses because they are not good enough, but it's part of the business. Most of my horses are for sale unless the owners don't want to sell, which is happy days. But I enjoy seeing the horses go well for other people."

Piggy's boyfriend, Tom March, owns some horses for Piggy to produce and sell, as well as putting together owner newsletters and videoing all events.

With horses coming and going, disease precaution is important and there is a six-stable quarantine block. Also near this is the spa — where older horses spend 20 minutes standing in cold, salty, moving water after work or events.

THREE TO WATCH

OBOS COOLEY, NINE-YEAR-OLD GELDING BY OBOS QUALITY 004

Owners: George and Jayne Apter

Best result: second Ballindenisk CC12* 2015

Piggy says: "He's a new ride for me this year. The Apters have owned with Mark Todd and William Fox-Pitt, so it's an honour they chose me to ride for them. He's a horse who has grown on me since I've had him. He's a big horse, but the more I do with him, the more belief I have in him and there's more to come. He's aimed at Blenheim CC13*."

JUMP JET III, SIX-YEAR-OLD GELDING BY CAPTAIN CLOVER

Owner: Piggy's boyfriend, Tom March

Best result: won four times at BE100 and novice

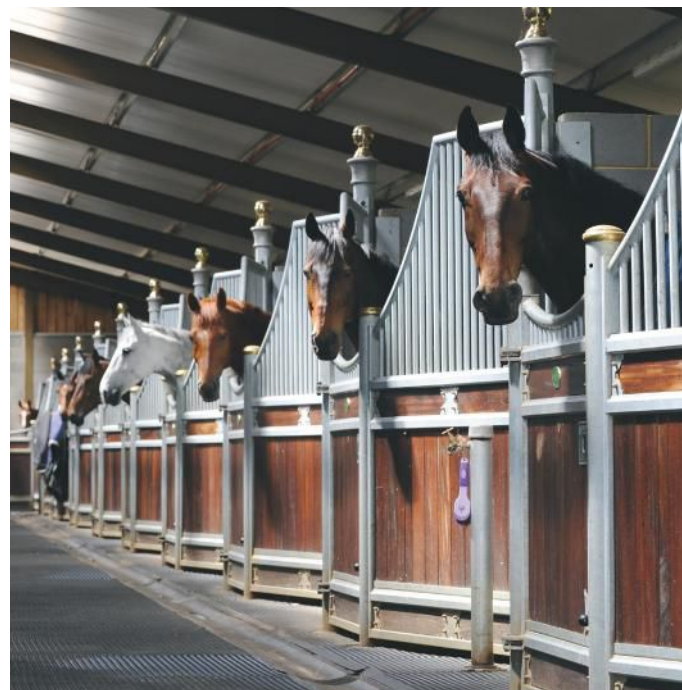
Piggy says: "We bought him from Donal Barnwell as a four-year-old. Tom owns some horses for me to produce and sell, but I hope if he doesn't sell we'll get an owner to buy him for me. He's a jumping machine, a tough Irish nut who loves to gallop. He's as good as any youngster I've had. I hope he's a future team horse. He may do the six-year-old class at Le Lion d'Angers, but he'll be more of a three- and four-star horse than a five- or six-year-old class winner."

TEMPLEPATRICK COOLEY, FIVE-YEAR-OLD MARE BY VIVALDO VAN HET COSTERSVELD

Owner: Jayne McGivern

Best result: double clear two BE100s

Piggy says: "She's quality and has a lovely attitude and athleticism. She'll go to Osberton for the five-year-old British championship if she's ready, but Jayne sees her as a future horse so the next couple of years are about producing her. We're not chasing classes at all with her."



The American barn-style stabling with rubber matting is the hub of the yard

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'Feeding is so important'

AS well as the stables, the main barn houses wash bays — with running hot water — and dry tie-up bays, which are awaiting heat lamps but are used for grooming, clipping and vet and farrier visits. Buckets of fodder are lined up in the feed room.

"I try to be as involved as possible in the feeding," says Piggy. "We try to keep it simple, but it's such an important factor."

The younger horses have two feeds a day, while the older ones might have three or four. Some horses have steamed hay, some dry hay, some haylage and some a mixture.

One member of staff, Sam Merry, is responsible for mixing the feeds.

"It's always when I'm riding or on my own that I think, 'This horse needs more feed or this adding to its feed', and I used to come in and tell the first person I saw, as I knew I'd forget by the end of the day," says Piggy, who finds it's better now she knows who to talk to about feed changes.

There is a locked medicine cabinet and the team use different coloured buckets for feeding horses on medication.

Courtesy of World Class, Piggy has a weighbridge and the horses are weighed once a month.

'There is no pecking order'

PIGGY lives in a bungalow on-site, while another building houses four live-in staff. Sam Merry lives out, as does Ramutis Deksnys, who is invaluable for keeping the wagons, paddocks and yard looking tidy. Piggy holds yard meetings "a couple of times a month. It's just five minutes, but it's mostly to ask if everyone is OK.

"People think they can't bother me, but I like a yard where everyone knows where they are, there is no pecking order and no sides. I like it to be out in the open who's in charge of what," she says.

The current working pupil is Irish rider Susie Berry.

"It helps to have a good kid in who rides and I like to think it's helpful for them to have the experience of a busy yard," she says.

Piggy and I watch Hannah Norvill, a 23-year-old New Zealander, school Ballindenisk CCI* winner Morswood.

"She's Judy Bradwell-produced, like me," says Piggy. "She works my horses when I'm away and we work together when I'm here. I know she won't upset them and I can pick up easily where I left off when I return."

Paul Burgess, who has the ride on London test event winner DHI Topper W, and travelling groom Alice Graham are the other live-in staff.

Piggy says she has never considered herself the greatest teacher, but clinics over the winter help pay the rent and living costs.

"I'd rather get on and do something than try to explain it, but I like helping people," she says. **H&H**

• See more pictures of Piggy's yard online at www.horseandhound/piggy-french



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LEADING THE WAY



Let's dance

Eight riders make up the British team heading to the European CIC2* Eventing Championships in August. The twist? Six riders must perform a team dressage test where they are in the arena at the same time. **Gemma Redrup** finds out how it works

THE European CIC2* Championships, to be held in Helvoirt in the Netherlands this August, are not exactly your standard eventing championships.

Eight British riders have been selected from 120 applicants to represent their country at the championships — six in the team plus two individuals. The six team members have the individual dressage, cross-country and showjumping phases to contend with, but there is also an extra element that stands between them and glory: the team dressage test.

This is where all six team members perform the same dressage test, at the same time, in the same arena.

It sounds like a logistical nightmare, but when it all comes together, the result is quite astonishing.

There are so many elements that can make or break the outcome of this initial phase.

“It requires discipline, focus and absolute concentration for the whole thing to work,” says chef d’équipe Richard Waygood.

Richard has a military background as a former riding master of the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment, and choreographer to the world famous musical *Ride and Trooping the Colour*. This comes in useful when guiding six eventers round an arena in perfect harmony.

“It is one of the few times in equestrian sport when you actually get to ride as a team; all together, at the same time, relying heavily upon each other to perform at your best and as planned,” states Richard.

In sync

JUDGES’ marks are based on the “dressing” of the test.

“The finished product needs to look as though all six riders are riding one horse,” explains Richard. “It needs to look smooth and effortless while maintaining rhythm, balance, suppleness and all of the other qualities that make a good dressage test.”

Riders must keep one horse’s length between them, and movements must be perfectly synchronised to earn the highest marks.

Some movements are trickier than others (see box, top right). These include two 10m half circles followed by a transition to canter upon returning to the outside track, and the inclines (crossing of the diagonal) in medium trot.

So where do you start when it comes to training six different horses and riders for such a challenge?

“We start by going through the test on foot,” says Richard. “This helps the riders to learn exactly where they need to be and when.”

Next, individual movements are ridden together as a team, before the jockeys finally string the whole test together.

“There is obviously a real emphasis on riders looking at where they are going and keeping a keen eye on those in front of them. The moment they look down at their horse the whole thing unravels and it can all look a complete mess very quickly,” adds the coach.

Zoe Wilkinson, one of the named riders on this year’s



The six riders must maintain perfect synchronisation and harmony at all times to achieve maximum marks

squad, says the team dressage test is “mentally tough”.

“It’s amazing how difficult it is to stare at a horse’s backside!” she says. “Riders can easily get fixated on how their own horses are going. This dressage test doesn’t allow for that, and three of the main factors in making the test a success are riding with feel, being aware of what is going on around you and focusing on maintaining a good rhythm throughout.”

Will to win

CHEF de mission Peter Buist explains the origins of the team dressage test: “This championship was first run in Germany in 1953. The team test derives from the methods used by the Germans where they drew upon schoolmasters to teach young horses the ropes by following each other around a dressage arena. Breeders also use the team dressage formation to show off a number of young horses at the same time to clients.”

Richard Waygood says that the team test works in favour of riders who are then required to perform an individual dressage test the following day.

“As the horse has already been in the arena once before, it often goes in and performs a relaxed individual test,” he says.

“All the riders want to be on the team and all of them want to win, so no matter how big or small their horse, or how extravagantly it moves, they make it work.”

Thankfully the riders don’t have to rely on telepathy, and Richard’s colleague and assistant chef d’équipe

MAKE OR BREAK MOVEMENTS

SOME movements in the test are harder than others. Here are the top three to look out for:

- Working trot down the centre line in single file, line up abreast, two metres apart, halt on the BXE line, rein-back three steps: riders need to be supremely accurate to ensure they halt exactly two metres apart from each other, in a straight line. Horses need to behave in the halt and not mind other horses standing so close to them while in the rein-back, which must be straight.
- On the long side all six riders turn right onto the diagonal, changing the rein in medium trot: riders must turn all at the same time and no horse should be in front or behind another – they must all be in a neat line as they cross the diagonal. Riders must keep an even distance while riding a good medium trot.
- On the long side, whole ride half 10m circle left onto the centre line, followed by a half 10m circle right in working trot. On returning to the long side whole ride transition to working canter: riders must complete their circles and transition in perfect synchronisation, calling for complete obedience from the horse.

Jonathan Chapman, is the commander who calls the test for the riders in training and competition. This indicates exactly when the team should perform movements, preventing confusion and promoting the smooth execution of the test.

It remains the responsibility of the leading rider to set the pace.

“If they are too fast or too slow, it completely ruins the dressing and marks are thrown away before we’ve even started the movements themselves,” says Richard.

“There is no room for divas on the team,” explains Peter. “Riders must be team players and respond well to training.”

Richard agrees: “Everyone must adapt and ride to suit the whole team. When it goes right, it looks great, and we have our eyes firmly set on medals this year.”

With Britain claiming the team silver medal at the 2013 championships in Austria, here’s hoping they can go one better in Holland when August comes around. **H&H**

‘There is no room for divas’: all team members must adapt their riding to suit the team – without becoming fixated on their own horse’s way of going



A full-page photograph of a rider on a chestnut horse jumping a hedge. The rider is wearing a blue helmet, a blue vest over a white long-sleeved shirt, white breeches, and black boots. The horse is in mid-jump, with its front legs tucked and its body arched over the hedge. The background is a dense green hedge.

Whitson scores back- to-back wins

Back on form: Louise Harwood
steers 'nippy' Whitson to an
advanced win at Aston-le-Walls



Edited by
Pippa Roome

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DO YOU HAVE AN EVENTING STORY?
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Millie Dumas and 10-year-old Look Now scoop a close second in the under-25 advanced

Horsezone.co.uk Aston-le-Walls (3), Northamptonshire

24-26 July

By Gemma Redrup

ALTHOUGH it left riders a little soggy on Friday, the 24 hours of rain that fell prior to Saturday's advanced classes made for near perfect going at Aston.

Herefordshire-based Louise Harwood repeated her 2014 victory on Whitson in section I.

The 12-year-old, initially bred for the show ring by owners Roy Baker and Emma Baker-Jones, was sent to Louise's yard seven years ago to be sold, but never left. Clocking the second fastest round of the day cross-country to add just 0.4 of a time-penalty to a dressage score of 29.1, Louise clinched victory by 3.8 penalties.

"Whitson obviously likes Aston," said Louise, who has recently started training with dressage rider Adam Kemp.

"I've only had two lessons with Adam so far, but I can already notice a huge improvement in my horses."

This was reflected in Louise's competitive second place after the first phase, behind Tim Price and his Rolex Kentucky four-star runner-up Wesko, who added six time-faults to finish eventual second.

Louise added: "Whitson is nippy for a big horse, which definitely helped in the showjumping where the fences came up very quickly, and he

zoomed around the cross-country. He's built more for comfort than for speed and you wouldn't think that he is fast, but he's economical and very polite, so the time wasn't a problem."

The combination were back on track following a slightly disappointing run at Barbury CIC3* earlier this month, which Louise felt may have cost her European selection.

"He didn't feel quite on form at Barbury so I have given him an easy couple of weeks and he felt back to himself this weekend," she said, and the combination now head to Burghley.

History repeated itself again for Louise on her other advanced ride Jenga II, owned by Cynthia Higgon, who was second in section H after also finishing runner-up here last year. The 11-year-old by Poetic Justice pulled a shoe off on the cross-country, which prevented a speedy round, leaving them behind Kitty King riding her European Championships-bound Persimmon.

This was the first run for Frank and Jane Inns' Persimmon since finishing runner-up at Bramham CCI3*.

"He did a solid, accurate test, showjumped well and then gave me a great ride cross-country," said Kitty. "He can be very fresh on his first run back after a three-day, but thankfully he was very focused and straight for me today."

Kitty admitted she hadn't quite

decided on her next and last run before the Europeans, but that it would either be a quiet intermediate run or she will take him to Hartpury CIC3*.

Sky is no limit

IAN WILLS piloted the in-form eight-year-old Hartpury Sky Is The Limit to victory in the eight- and nine-year-old class, now in its sixth year of running. The 16.3hh gelding by Take it 2 The Limit, owned by Diana Brodie, was the only horse to make the optimum time across all four advanced sections at Aston.

He finished on his dressage score of 32.1, ahead of Piggy French riding George and Jayne Apter's OBOS Cooley.

"This is the third time I have tried to win this class and I have finally nailed it," said Ian.

The owner and her father bought Hartpury Sky Is The Limit as a four-year-old and Ian has produced him ever since.

"Sadly Diana's father died earlier this year, so I have just had an ice cream in his honour," said Brackley-based Ian.

This was the horse's first advanced, which followed a win in the open intermediate (OI) at Tweseldown 12 days previously. The gelding, who was out of action for most of the 2014 season after he picked up a stress fracture, made nothing of the cross-country course.

"He's so professional and just wants to jump between the flags," said Ian. "He coasted round and with more marks to be had in the dressage I am very excited about him."

Ian's immediate aim with the horse is Hartpury CCI2* but he is unsure of plans after that.

"As long as the fat lady isn't singing we will keep going!" said Ian.

Advanced section G, run on Friday, was won convincingly by Andrew Hoy riding his own Rutherglen. The pair were third after the dressage on a score of 25.1. They followed this up with a double clear and a handful of time-faults to top the leaderboard ahead of an Oliver Townend two-three, riding Dunbeau and Note Worthy respectively.

"Rutherglen was good in all three phases. I have worked on his showjumping and he jumped a very good round. I was using the cross-country purely as a fitness

TALKING POINTS

#kickingcancersbutt

KATE ROCHER-SMITH of Dasset Eventing not only sponsored the eight- and nine-year-old advanced class at Aston, but also raised more than £1,500 for charity.

Kate's team "worked tirelessly to pull this class and fundraising effort together".

The team sold blue fuzzy bug stickers for a suggested donation of £1 in support of two nominated charities. Money raised will be split between the Bobby Robson Foundation, as chosen by Ben Hobday, an event rider recently diagnosed with lymphatic cancer, and MPD Voice for Kate's aunt, Sheena Hawkin, who is suffering from blood cancer.

Dasset Eventing contributed another £5 for any riders in its class who wore their fuzzy bugs in the showjumping.

"It has been truly incredible to witness the sheer generosity of people, I can't thank everybody enough," said Kate.

Blair-bound horses

SEVERAL British horses heading to the European Championships at Blair Castle were spotted on advanced day. Bay My Hero and William Fox-Pitt did a lovely dressage test for 24.6 penalties and a clear showjumping round before he was withdrawn before the cross-country.

Arctic Soul and Gemma Tattersall's fast double clear claimed third in section I.

Other British Europeans pairs included Kitty King, who won on Persimmon, Laura Collett (Grand Manoeuvre) – who didn't run across country after a 28.7 first phase and two down – and Francis Whittington (Easy Target), who put in a steady double clear after a 26.7 dressage.

Holly Woodhead also gave DHI Lupison a quiet run in the under-21 open intermediate.



European selections Gemma Tattersall and Arctic Soul take third in an advanced

run," said Andrew, who didn't realise that he had gone so quickly until he looked at the results afterwards.

The combination now head to Gatcombe's British open championships before Burghley.

McEwen defends his title

TOM MCEWEN claimed the advanced under-25 section for the second year in a row, this time riding Staff Des Champs. The nine-year-old, owned by David and Jane Hamilton and Ellen Roberts, was contesting his first advanced. He scored 35.7 in the dressage, followed by a good double clear, notching the fastest cross-country time in this section for just 3.6 time-penalties.

"Staff Des Champs has now moved to my yard full-time, which has definitely helped us this season," said Tom, who previously rode the horse from the Hamiltons' base. "He's really grown into himself and he gave me an amazing ride across country. I knew roughly what I had to do time-wise to win and became up with the goods."



Persimmon gives Kitty King a 'great ride' to win an advanced ahead of the Europeans

Tom, who considers this horse to be one of his top rides now, will aim him for either Blenheim or Lignière CCI3*. Millie Dumas was just 1.5 penalties behind Tom to secure second place riding her

own and Susan Larson's 10-year-old Look Now.

Riders were full of praise for organiser Nigel Taylor and his team. Having suffered a dry spell followed by heavy rain on both Friday and Sunday, they pulled out all of the stops to ensure excellent going.

Nigel said: "I had a word with God about the rain and thankfully he came up with the goods! We had applied over 500,000 litres of water to the course and Aera-vated in the run-up, and when over an inch of rain fell in 24 hours on Friday, the going was perfect."

RESULTS

Adv sec G. – 1, Rutherglen (A Hoy) 25.1,0,5,2=30.3; 2, Dunbeau (O Townend) 28.3,4,1,2=33.5; 3, Note Worthy (O Townend) 30.9,0,3,2=34.1. **sec H.** – 1, Persimmon (K King) 26.8,0,12=38.8; 2, Jenga II (L Harwood) 31.8,4,6=42.6; 3, NZB Campino (M Todd) 29.8,0,12,8=42.6. **sec I.** – 1, Whitson (L Harwood) 29.1,0,0,4=29.5; 2, Wesko (T Price) 27.3,0,6=33.3; 3, Arctic Soul (G Tattersall) 30.6,0,3,6=34.2. **adv u25.** – 1, Staff Des Champs (T McEwen) 35.7,0,3,6=39.3; 2, Look Now (M Dumas) 35.0,6,8=41.8; 3, Rehy Too (G Ruck) 33.8,4,5,6=43.4. **adv 8/9yo.** – 1, Hartpur Sky Is The Limit (I Wills) 32.1,0,0=32.1; 2, OBOS Cooley (P French) 29.3,0,4=33.3; 3, Xavier Faer (T Price) 33.9,0,2,4=36.3. **Ol.** – 1, Bonne Amie (V Panizzon) 19.8,0,3,2=23; 2, Cheeky Callimbo (A Hoy) 23.2,0,0,4=23.6; 3, Red Andes Fanfare (O Townend) 28.0,1,2=29.2. **under-21 Ol sec L.** – 1, Rocky Rockstar (E Hitchman) 32.1,0,0=32.1; 2, Lemington Lets Dance (K Hall-Jackson) 32.9,0,0=32.9; 3, Brookleigh (E King) 26.8,4,3,6=34.4. **sec M.** – 1, Opera House (S Ecroyd) 25.2,0,4,8=30; 2, Sannanvalley Justice (C Bacon) 30.9,0,1,2=32.1; 3, Wodan III (S Ecroyd) 28.8,0=36. **sec S.** – 1, Purple Sands (B Bolton) 31.1,2,0=33.1; 2, Glock Pullman (R Losano) 27.3,0,10=37.3; 3, Playtime NZPH (L Georgiadis) 31.4,4,2=37.4. **int sec N.** – 1, One Night Love (V Panizzon) 24.6,4,6=34.6; 2, Croisiere (B Way) 29.8,0,5,6=35.4; 3, Isaac Newton (J Rimmer) 32.7,4,0,4=37.1. **sec O.** – 1, Perusing (O Townend) 30.5,0,0=30.5; 2, Adagio N (K Varley) 29.8,4,2=35.8; 3, PSH Bespoke (M Jackson) 34.6,0,2=36.6. **sec**

Nigel explained that the technicality of the cross-country course had to be built with less experienced horses and riders in mind, with more than 50% of competitors running their horses at this level for the first time.

The new addition of yet another huge all-weather arena (80x100m), which was completed just three weeks ago, meant that both the dressage and showjumping phases could run on flat, weather-resistant surfaces.

The Ol winner was Vittoria Panizzon (Bonne Amie), while the under-21 Ol honours went to Ella Hitchman (Rocky Rockstar), Sam Ecroyd (Opera House) and Bert Bolton (Purple Sands).

Vittoria doubled up with an intermediate victory on One Night Love, while Oliver Townend also scored two wins on Perusing and LCC Cooley.

Izzy Taylor (Calibro) and Bill Levett (Lassban Diamond Lift) also took a section apiece.

Two riders suffered nasty accidents over the three days of competition. Lydia Hannon and My Royal Touch fell at the second to last fence in the advanced. She was airlifted to hospital with chest injuries but was hoping to be discharged as H&H went to press.

Jo Rimmer was kicked in the head after it was thought one of her horses was stung in the lorry park. She suffered a large haematoma on her head, but was also hopeful of leaving hospital as H&H went to press. **H&H**

Q. – 1, LCC Cooley (O Townend) 35.0,0=35; 2, Van Dyke II (I Taylor) 34.3,0,2,8=37.1; 3, Kilgarron Kontender (L Bradley) 23.9,4,11,6=39.5. **sec R.** – 1, Calibro (I Taylor) 30.5,0,0,8=31.3; 2, Sonic De Sermentol (O Townend) 23.4,8,2,4=33.8; 3, Priorspark Opposition Free (E Stoddart) 26.6,4,4=34.6. **sec T.** – 1, Lassban Diamond Lift (B Levett) 31.8,0,0,8=32.6; 2, Legende Top Secret (I Taylor) 30.7,4,0=34.7; 3, Vendredi Biats (K King) 30.5,0,6=36.5. **nov sec A.** – 1, Oaklands First Time (A Duffort) 33.3,0,0=33.3; 2, Crystal Rock (E Llewellyn) 33.3,0,0=33.3; 3, Dream Master (G Murphy) 30.5,1,4=35.5. **sec B.** – 1, Koh I Noor (T Price) 18.5,0,0=18.5; 2, By My Side 2 (J Hayessen) 27.5,0,0,4=27.9; 3, Dali III (M Ford) 30.3,0,0=30.3. **sec C.** – 1, Luxalike (P Sims) 25.5,0,1,2=26.7; 2, Ascona M (J Price) 24.5,0,3,6=28.1; 3, HS Oskar X (E Halliday-Sharp) 25.3,0,5,2=30.5. **sec F.** – 1, Altaskin Jack (J Sommerville) 30.5,0,0,4=30.9; 2, Superstition II (L Jackson) 28.5,0,3,6=32.1; 3, Just William XX (A Downes) 32.0,1,6=33.6. **sec U.** – 1, Deoch An Doris (I MacPherson) 2.8,0,1,2=30; 2, Barnadown B Lucky (J Amos) 30.8,0,0=30.8; 3, Lockroy (M Heath) 29.5,4,0=33.5. **sec V.** – 1, Condor L 2 (C Agnew) 24.8,0,0,4=25.2; 2, Evantos K (I MacPherson) 29.5,0,1,2=30.7; 3, Billy Senora (A Wilkes) 33.0,0=33. **ON.** – 1, A Chance Affair (J Evans) 28.0,0=28; 2, Bright One V H Dijkeinde (L Reeve) 27.5,4,0=31.5; 3, Dunganstown Fleur (S Holmes) 30.0,3,2=33.2. **ONU18.** – 1, So Quiet (N Lawrence) 29.0,0=29; 2, Sugar Brown Babe (C Taylor) 27.3,0,5,2=32.5; 3, Lantana (S Phillips) 23.5,4,5,2=32.7.



Tom McEwen successfully defends the under-25 advanced title, on Staff Des Champs

COMMENT

Mark Todd



When cheering becomes unsporting

FROM a personal perspective as coach to the Brazilian team, the Pan Am Games were a huge success. We took team silver and individual bronze medals, which probably surprised a few people, but I thought we had a decent chance and so it proved.

The venue — Caledon Equestrian Centre, about an hour from Toronto — was stunning, with first-class facilities. It made last year's World Equestrian Games look even more of a shambles!

The cross-country took place an hour away. It was a fairly small area, but it was undulating, and the Australian course-designer Wayne Copping had done a good job of making use of the whole site. The track was on the soft side for a CCI2* but, considering the varying abilities taking part, it was a fair course.

From the sport's perspective, it was encouraging that there were 11 teams and 13 nations competing. The USA, Canada and Brazil stood out; there was a big gap back to the other, central and South American, nations, but it was great they were fielding teams — it is hugely difficult for them to compete at any level — and trying to improve.

Karen O'Connor is coaching the Mexican team, while former Canadian rider Peter Gray is training the Guatemalans, and another Canadian, Kyle Carter, is helping the Venezuelans. The progress the Brazilians have made was a talking point, and should act as inspiration.

We were drawn behind the hosts, Canada, so all our riders had to follow theirs into the dressage arena, where huge cheers went up as each of their competitors exited — and again as their scores were announced, by which time Ruy Fonseca, for example, was doing his first halt.

There was a definite element of gamesmanship to it and it was a bit unsporting — there was a

big cheer as our last rider entered the stadium, organised by someone connected to their team. But our riders did remind theirs in whose country next year's Olympics will take place!

All the Brazilians went clear inside the time, and we pushed team gold medallists, the USA, all the way to the line. Ruy had the last showjump down, so won individual bronze, rather than gold — still a terrific result.

Anna Ross, the Brazilian dressage coach, and I were very satisfied; we are on target.

Hooray for Aston

I got pretty wet at Aston-le-Walls last weekend — if the dressage and showjumping had not been on all-weather surfaces I think it would have been cancelled. But the cross-country held up well, considering that close to 1,000 horses ran on it over the three days. Most fences have all-weather take-offs and landings, which made the difference.

Every time you go to Aston, Nigel and Ann Taylor have done more. It is a brilliant facility. My one tiny criticism was that the surfaces in the new arenas aren't quite settled yet and got quite churned up. But, especially as we no longer have Salperton at this time of year, it is so important that Aston is there and that these horses could get a run.

Having a say in our future

THERE is a lot of discussion going on about the FEI's future changes to eventing, and there was a meeting last Tuesday with the Eventing Riders Association (ERA) about it. The FEI are interested in input from national federations and riders, and for the first time during my career I feel as if riders have a say in the future of our sport. We need to get behind our federations and rider groups and make sure we have input in a constructive and considered way. **H&H**

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Webber is on Fire

A loan horse reignites her jockey's eventing mojo at Launceston, while a showing star and a seasoned hunter are among the other winners, writes **Ellie Hughes**



After a three-year break, Marie Webber leaps to BE100 victory with Stormhill Firestar on only her third outing of 2015

MOTHER of two Marie Webber took home the top prize in a closely contested BE100open section at Launceston on 19 June, riding Kirsty Keslake's 13-year-old mare, Stormhill Firestar.

This was only the third outing of the year for Marie, who is getting back into the swing of eventing following a three-year break.

"I had my second daughter last year, so didn't compete, and before that I'd had a couple of

unruly young horses that had put me off and left me feeling a bit deflated," she admitted.

"By chance, Kirsty asked me if I'd like to take on Firestar as she was very busy with her daughter [British Pony dressage squad member] Holly's competing commitments.

"Firestar's a lovely horse – a real point and go sort of a girl – which is what I need at the moment."

Impressively, Marie juggles motherhood and eventing with a

full-time job as a science teacher at Okehampton College.

"I cope because I have the most amazing mother; she's not hands-on with the horses, but she's the one pushing the pram around the field," she added.

Equine dental technician Harriet Franklin and her own Spirit Song made it two wins from two when they followed victory the previous weekend at Bicton Arena with a top finish here in BE90 section B.

"I bought Spirit Son as a five-year-old and he started life in the show ring as a hunter," explained Harriet of the 12-year-old gelding who carries Master Spiritus bloodlines. "Eventing is my main love, though, so he switched jobs. He's an absolute gentleman, which is lucky because he's 17hh and I'm only 5ft5in!"

This was the third running of Launceston, which takes place at St Leonards Equestrian Centre in the spectacular Tamar valley.

Organiser Andy Reeve had employed the services of local rider Lucy Wiegiersma to design the three courses and riders were unanimous in their praise for the "technical enough, but beautifully built and very fair" courses.

"Next year we have plans to build another pond fence, in addition to the two natural water crossings, and move the showjumping arena to the natural amphitheatre where we hold our showjumping shows," said Andy.

WORKING RIDER

Fern Wilson

THE Eridge BE90 winner not only juggles eventing with studying to become a vet, but also does shift work at the weekends to pay for her hobby.

"I don't ride on weekdays as I stay in London, but at weekends I travel back home to Headley in Surrey and ride at one end of the day or the other. I work for a catering company, so I have to be in early, from 6am, or work late into the evening."

Fern bought her 15hh piebald gelding, Killea Colours (Charlie), as a project before she began her degree at the Royal Veterinary College in 2012.

"The idea was to sell him on to a Pony Club home, but that hasn't quite happened," she said. "He is a lovely, easy horse who fits into my hectic schedule and can switch from being a beautifully behaved happy hacker during the week for my mum, to a keen competition horse at weekends."



FIRST WINS

Tanya Reid

THE farmer's wife from Herstmonceux in East Sussex steered her nine-year-old gelding Montgomery Flax (Monty) to a first win in a BE90 section at Eridge. "I bought him as a supposedly broken three-year-old, but when I sat on him for the first time he bucked me off," said Tanya. "But he seems to have turned a corner this season."

Tanya won the same section at

Eridge last year on her other horse, Bill Bailey. "I was wearing the same number, 10, too. It either means I haven't advanced at all or that I am consistent, depending on how you look at it," she laughed.

Wendy McGarry

THE 57-year-old from Bridgenorth contested her first BE100 with Andrew and Tracey Crane's Hugo Hunting (right) at Stafford (2) – and won.

"We had a few glasses of



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Showing star proves his versatility



Multi-talented: Melanie Dixon and home-bred 17.2hh Forest Bay take BE90 honours

FORMER SEIB Search for a Star working hunter champion Forest Bay (Billy) has turned his hoof successfully to eventing despite health problems.

Melanie Dixon's home-bred 17.2hh thoroughbred gelding, who won the prestigious title at Horse of the Year (HOYS) in 2012, topped a BE90 section at Breckenborough (2), finishing on his dressage score of 25.5.

"We went to last year's Badminton Grassroots Championship, but he uncharacteristically stopped on

the cross-country and refused to go on," explained Melanie. "My vet, Graham Russ, from Oaklands Veterinary Centre, found that he had two bone cysts fusing his spine together."

An operation followed and Billy was able to resume gentle work last December.

"We've been out four times this season and picked up several placings, but this was a first win," said Melanie, who has also qualified the multi-talented 10-year-old for the middleweight hunter championship at the Royal International Horse Show. **H&H**



champagne that evening as Tracey, who is a good friend, came third in another section with Hugo's stablemate, Henry The Hunter," said Wendy, who has been riding the seven-year-old gelding since last September.

"Andrew is field-master for the Albrighton Woodland Hunt, hence the horses' hunting names. They both hunt all winter, have a few weeks' holiday in the spring and then go eventing."

RESULTS

BRECKENBOROUGH (2)

ON - 1, Maranti (J Rushbrooke) 27.5,0,2=29.5; 2, Holly Flight (N Spalding) 32.3,0,0=32.3; 3, Kitealy King (N Wilson) 28.8,0,4=32.8. **ONu18** - 1, Mount Selvaggio (P Barker) 26.4,0,8=30.8; 2, DHI Sparkies (P Williams) 32.0,1,2=33.2; 3, Arty (M Poskitt) 32.5,0,1=34.1. **nov sec E** - 1, Penhill Promising Vision (S Chadwick) 31.0,0=31; 2, Jarck (M Wright) 32.0,0=32; 3, Ebelina W (L Ritchie-Bland) 30.8,0,1=32. **sec F** - 1, Elm Rainbow (I Walsh) 25.8,0,1=27.4; 2, Superjumbo (Z Rymer) 27.3,0,0,4=27.7; 3, Cavaliers Pride (E Williams) 31.0,2,4=33.4. **BE100plus** - 1, Martel (R Holden) 27.5,0,0=27.5; 2, A Rio Negra (K Davies) 27.3,4,0=31.3; 3, Beechlands Lass (K Lovell) 33.5,0,0=33.5. **BE100open** - 1, The Ginger King (C Claydon) 28.0,0=28; 2, Forget Me Not Frankie (G Grant) 30.0,0,4=30.4; 3, Suedip (C Whittle) 32.0,0=32. **BE100 sec A** - 1, Miss Murphy II (R Speckkaert) 23.5,0,0=23.5; 2, Longwood Queen Of Diamonds (J Thornton) 27.0,0=27; 3, Kilnamona Susie (C Naismith) 30.0,0=30. **sec B** - 1, Working Day (A Slinger) 23.8,0,0=23.8; 2, I Blame Bertie (H Speight) 23.8,0,0=23.8; 3, Kingsley Park Panther (N Wilson) 24.8,0,0=24.8. **sec C** - 1, Touchdown Billy (H Stevenson) 23.0,0=23; 2, Manusmore Setanta (S Platt) 28.0,0=28; 3, A Shivers Tale (S Burduss) 24.3,4,0=28.3. **sec D** - 1, Plimsolls Line (E Gibbon) 28.5,0,0=28.5; 2, Silver Silhouette (S Platt) 32.3,0,0=32.3; 3, Mithwaite Pride Of Milligan (I Higginbotham) 32.8,0,0=32.8. **BE90 sec L** - 1, Autumn Double (F Reeds) 27.3,0,0=27.3; 2, Django Moonshine (E Lennon) 28.3,0,0=28.3; 3, Nobleman One (C Ridley) 29.3,0,0=29.3. **sec J** - 1, Forest Bay (M Dixon) 25.5,0,0=25.5; 2, Moonshine VII (J Rushbrooke) 28.5,0,0=28.5; 3, Galaxy Gold II (S Malpass) 28.8,0,0=28.8. **sec N** - 1, Mile High (D Page) 26.8,0,0=26.8; 2, Future Gold Digger (E Stoddart) 28.0,0=28; 3, Roxloe Carmarthen (N Hall) 28.5,0,0=28.5; 2, 1, Savia Di Santini (J Gambirasio) 23.5,4,0=27.5; 2, Highgrange Flight (C Lawson) 28.5,0,0=28.5; 3, Handara (A Hackett) 29.3,0,0=29.3. **BE80(T)** sec K - 1, Bit Of A Treat (A Walker) 30.8,0,0=30.8; 2, Callimore Diamond George (F North) 31.5,0,0=31.5; 3, Trendy Magic Touch (K Stephens-Grandy) 34.5,0,0=34.5. **sec L** - 1, Maigold Rose (B Slinger) 28.8,0,0=28.8; 2, Valkyrie (R Venn) 30.8,0,0=30.8; 3, Branchfield Jane (S Beedham) 32.8,0,0=32.8. **sec M** - 1, Stanophes Chantilly (L Lodge) 26.3,0,0=26.3; 2, It's A Dun Deal II (I Scott) 28.5,0,0=28.5; 3, Tommy VIII (S Brown) 31.5,0,2=33.5.

LAUNCESTON

BE100open - 1, Stormhill Firestar (M Webber) 28.8,0,0=28.8; 2, Mangon Boy (C Durrant) 28.8,0,0=28.8; 3, Roosky (C Austin) 30.0,0=30. **BE100 sec E** - 1, Tredazzle (J Hoskin) 25.0,0=25; 2, Boysies Only Fool (S Rice) 26.0,0,4=26.4; 3, Wisbeach River Deep (P McCarthy) 28.0,0=28. **BE90open** - 1, Rum Truffle II (I Webb) 29.0,2,4=31.4; 2, Ballyhooley (I John) 32.5,0,0=32.5; 3, Mulfra (S Newton) 35.8,0,0=36.6. **BE90 sec A** - 1, Magical Legend (H Foale) 25.8,0,0=25.8; 2, Dublin Dave (C Hodgson) 27.5,0,0=27.5; 3, Imperial Tongue (J Lo-Vel) 24.8,4,0=28.8. **sec B** - 1, Spirit Song (H Franklin) 26.5,0,0=26.5; 2, Harlyn Connor (K Dunstan) 27.5,0,0=27.5; 3, Perfectly Primitive (S Stokes) 27.5,0,0=27.5. **BE80(T)** sec F - 1, Porthwarra (T Sleep) 30.5,0,0=30.5; 2, Sharateek De Mon (J Booth) 31.0,0=31; 3, Emo (D West) 31.3,0,0=31.3. **sec G** - 1, Diamond Dazzler III (H Grogan) 18.8,4,0=22.8; 2, Moonpride (K Shobbrook) 28.3,0,0=28.3; 3, Wencio (L Giles) 20.5,8,0=28.5.

STAFFORD (2)

BE100plus sec R - 1, Shopaholic (A Heffernan) 34.0,0=34; 2, Coloured Boy IH (A Hill) 35.3,0,0=35.3; 3, Lickene Lakeview Milo (J Watts) 36.3,0,0=36.3. **sec S** - 1, Christoff (S Ecroyd) 27.8,0,0=27.8; 2, Wishes In The Sky (R Gray) 28.8,0,0=28.8; 3, Warriss (M Gibson) 30.0,0=30. **BE100open** - 1, Erinnerung U Van Het Juxchot (S Rose) 25.5,4,0=29.5; 2, The Demonstrator (V Cliffe) 31.5,0,0=31.5; 3, V Max (R White) 29.8,0,2=32.6. **BE100 sec L** - 1, Dalcotes Zavast (S Brise) 30.3,0,0=30.3; 2, Charestown Warrior (B McClumpha) 27.3,4,0=31.3; 3, Henry The Hunter (T Crane) 33.5,0,0=33.5. **sec M** - 1, Hugo Hunting (W McGarry) 29.3,0,0=29.3; 2, Sand Storm II (T Cassells) 30.5,0,0=30.5; 3, Mountcharles Olisin (R Sowerby) 30.8,0,0=30.8. **sec O** - 1, Prince Ramiro (B Bolton) 24.0,0=24; 2, Red Quest II (N Johnson) 17.8,8,0=24; 3, Gredington

Graffiti (A Penny) 25.4,0=29. **sec P** - 1, Queens Toxica (C Basnett) 21.0,1=22; 2, Gingerbread IV (L Robinson) 23.3,0,0=23.3; 3, Damaskus Van De Kapel (O Townend) 24.0,0=24. **Syo** - 1, Roc Solid (L Kemplay) 22.8,0,0=22.8; 2, Fly The Flag II (E Chandler) 23.3,0,0=23.3; 3, Fly The Flag (R Thomas) 26.0,0=26. **BE90open** - 1, PSH Uranium (L Joynson) 18.0,0=18; 2, Diamond Spectical (C Horsley) 23.0,0=23; 3, Kissemmie Playboy (M Brown) 25.8,0,0,4=26.2. **BE90 sec E** - 1, Bonnie Release The Stars (L Hanson) 26.5,0,0=26.5; 2, Dundrum Lady (A Kolleth) 28.5,0,0=28.5; 3, Annaghmore Chip Amie (L Hayton) 32.8,0,0=32.8. **sec F** - 1, Baloubet Balou (S Mitchell) 23.0,0=23; 2, Our Man Flynn (H Fletcher) 26.5,0,0=26.5; 3, Well Hello There (W Garrick) 28.3,0,0=28.3. **sec G** - 1, Litchfield Fox Trot (B Hartley) 27.3,0,0=27.3; 2, Masters Coevers (Y Watson) 27.5,0,0=27.5; 3, Four Ashes Belgravia (H Thompson) 30.3,0,0=30.3. **sec H** - 1, Statham Aachen (E Gedvilas) 30.3,0,0=30.3; 2, Mischief Machine (L Poole) 30.5,0,0=30.5; 3, Foreland Tiger Trot (K Corteen) 31.8,0,0=31.8. **sec I** - 1, Verblonck (A Coulson) 28.3,0,0=28.3; 2, Brancotties Lucky 7 (J Armstrong) 30.4,0=34; 3, Strong Beau (B Amos) 33.3,0,1,2=34.5. **sec T** - 1, Silabhawn Admiral (R Hanlon) 26.5,0,0=26.5; 2, Silver II (S Warner) 28.0,0=28; 3, Springlease Hope And Glory (S Sacks) 29.5,0,0=29.5. **4yo** - 1, Gypsy Squire (G Foggan) 24.5,4,0=28.5; 2, G Star (N Brook) 28.5,0,0=28.5; 3, Direct Contender (B Way) 28.8,0,0=28.8. **BE80(T)** sec A - 1, Midsomer Clover (J Ball) 24.0,4,0=28; 2, Abbeygate Jewel (J Wanless) 24.5,4,0=28.5; 3, My Best Bet (A Hulme) 28.5,0,0=28.5. **sec B** - 1, Hendrewen Calon Lan (K Kellett) 37.3,0,0=37.3; 2, Slabh Kinvara (P Walker) 37.5,0,0=37.5; 3, Woodfield Champion (E Pott) 37.8,0,0=37.8. **sec C** - 1, Wild Design (D Titterton) 31.8,0,0=31.8; 2, Miss Trolly Dolly (L Poole) 31.8,0,0=31.8; 3, Butterlands Spotlight (K Attenborough) 37.8,1,0=38.8. **sec D** - 1, Orleton Audition (G Varro) 28.8,0,0=28.8; 2, Bolt II (S Jones) 27.3,4,0=31.3; 3, Sannanvalley Mimic (L Poole) 31.5,0,1=32.5.

UPTON HOUSE

ON - 1, Mister Zip (E Lloyd) 19.8,4,0=23.8; 2, Captain Future (G Spence) 25.0,0,8=25.8; 3, Deo Volente II (N Brook) 19.8,4,2=25.8. **nov sec A** - 1, Speedilicious (D Western-Kaye) 27.5,4,0=31.5; 2, DHI Amiro Sky (B Haskell) 30.5,0,2,4=32.9; 3, Brokenborough Gold (G Spence) 32.0,2,8=34.8. **sec B** - 1, Evantos K (I MacPherson) 28.8,0,4=29.2; 2, Serafina (I Taylor) 30.0,0=30; 3, Word On The Street (A Pearson) 29.8,0,0,4=30.2. **sec C** - 1, Lucky Contender (A O'Connor) 26.4,0=26; 2, Foxy Lady V (G Howe) 29.3,0,2,4=31.7; 3, Falconlake Mercedes (L Shelley) 31.0,2,8=33.8. **sec E** - 1, Wellhead Fare Enough (S Pinfield) 29.8,0,0,4=30.2; 2, Moon Under Water (B Haskell) 30.8,0,0=30.8; 3, Friday Knight (G Spence) 28.3,0,2,3=31.5. **BE100open** - 1, Scottfree II (P Goess-Saurau) 22.5,0,0=22.5; 2, Montjoys Boy (E Tweedie) 24.0,0=24; 3, Drakes Drum II (F Richardson) 25.8,0,0=25.8. **BE100 sec G** - 1, Kilbawn Lad (C Hawkins) 15.0,0=15; 2, Dacapo (L Collett) 15.5,0,0,4=15.9; 3, Noels Sox (D Western-Kaye) 17.3,0,0=17.3. **sec H** - 1, Premier Quickfire (I Von Mesterhazy) 21.3,0,0=21.3; 2, Cassinar (E Shoesmith) 25.5,0,0=25.5; 3, Todburn Tell Tale (L Jackson) 23.5,0,3=26.5. **sec I** - 1, Christoff (S Ecroyd) 25.5,0,0=25.5; 2, Stay In Touch (S Waite) 25.8,0,0=25.8; 3, Derrygallow Lill (C Organ) 31.5,0,0,8=32.3. **sec K** - 1, Shannondale Holly (G Howe) 25.0,0=25; 2, Jensen III (A Clark) 27.3,0,1,6=28.9; 3, Interstellar (J Robinson) 29.5,0,0=29.5. **sec L** - 1, I Fly (H Darvas) 20.8,0,0=20.8; 2, Ella Carthioma (H Savage) 18.4,0=22. **BE100out8** - 1, Newmill Jamestown (R Britnell) 32.3,0,0=32.3; 2, Cloonbarry Robon (E Grace) 33.0,0=33; 3, Coolodge Mick (L Bailey) 33.3,0,0,4=33.7. **Syo** - 1, Calvin II (S Squires) 23.0,0=23; 2, Templepatrick Cooley (P French) 26.0,0=26; 3, Carsten Of Westoak (P French) 25.5,4,0=29.5. **BE90open** - 1, Fervent (Z Brewer) 22.3,0,0=22.3; 2, Leverage (H Jackson) 24.8,0,0=24.8; 3, Kahyasi Jack (K Baxter) 20.8,4,0=24.8. **BE90 sec O** - 1, Future Divine Illusion (S Dawson) 29.5,0,0=29.5; 2, Charlie Chan (H Grace) 30.0,0=30; 3, Violante Del Ferro (D Bizzaro) 30.8,0,0=30.8. **sec P** - 1, Trefroda (S Hobbs) 24.3,0,0=24.3; 2, Kilmatulla Amazon (D Paget) 27.5,0,0=27.5; 3, Hayestown Danny (A James) 28.5,0,0=28.5. **sec Q** - 1, Coolodge Sox (L Ridout) 24.8,0,0=24.8; 2, Trefddyn Crackerjack (V Pearson) 27.3,0,0=27.3; 3, Percivals Rebel (J Jessett) 31.3,0,0=31.3.

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SHOWJUMPING

Formidable combination: John Whitaker and Argento give it their all at the new London GCT venue of Syon Park, finishing a frustrating but respectable second

GCT GRAND PRIX

1st

Rolf-Göran Bengtsson and
Casall ASK (SWE)

2nd

John Whitaker and Argento
(GBR)

3rd

Simon Delestre and Olassic
Bois Margot (FRA)



Bengtsson foils British bid

John Whitaker and Argento come agonisingly close to scooping grand prix glory but are unable to fend off eventual victor Sweden's Rolf-Göran Bengtsson, while Scott Brash strengthens his position at the top of the overall rankings



GRAND PRIX



'I was sweating, John was very, very close': Rolf-Göran Bengtsson and Casall ASK hang onto their lead by 0.08 of a second, launching them to fourth in the overall GCT rankings

Longines Global Champions Tour, London

24-26 July

By Sarah Radford

B RITAIN was denied a third consecutive Longines Global Champions Tour (GCT) London grand prix title when a sensational effort by John Whitaker fell short by an agonising 0.08-second margin.

Victory was conferred on Swede Rolf-Göran Bengtsson, whose nagging consistency over the GCT series finally broke through. An early draw in an epic jump-off forced him to maximise his opportunity with Casall ASK and the experienced stallion ably delivered.

"I was fifth to go, and when you have a jump-off with 12 starters you have to give everything or someone will beat you before long," said Rolf-Göran, who has finished in the top 10 with the

16-year-old Holsteiner at every leg the pair has jumped so far this season.

All the first-round clears retained impeccable sheets in the second phase, where a generous time allowed had made their job a little easier than in the exacting opening round.

Three British riders remained in contention in the final jump off. Second to go, Robert Whitaker and Catwalk IV's hopes were swiftly quashed when he clipped an oxer at the third, before adding a further four faults at the final vertical.

It was 53-year-old Rolf-Göran who produced the first treble clear – and at a full two seconds faster than Robert, the quickest of the faulters to have jumped, it was a stinging target for those that followed.

But among showjumping's Formula One set, victory is never a foregone conclusion and there

were stellar combinations aplenty to follow.

Germany's Christian Ahlmann – lying third in the GCT rankings – succeeded in leeching 0.7 of a second from the lead time with the fiercely competitive Taloubet Z. But the 15-year-old stallion dropped to eventual fifth when he kicked out a rail at the water tray three from home.

Dutch rider Gerco Schröder and Glock's Cognac Champblanc were fluid but unhurried, producing a textbook clear that was sufficient to land them a tidy €40,000 (£28,500) for fourth.

Frenchman Simon Delestre followed suit with another flawless performance. Seeing a good shot to the last, he slipped into an initial second place aboard 11-year-old stallion selle Français Qlassic Bois Margot.

Ensuring the engagement of a partisan crowd, Brits John Whitaker and Scott Brash had

earned themselves the final two jump-off slots with their fast first-round performances.

John's renaissance has been much documented this season, and his and wife Clare's 13-year-old stallion Argento was as formidable as ever round Italian course-builder Uliano Vezzani's track.

Ballooning over the oxer at the third, they lost a fraction of time, but a tight turn back to the Longines double gained ground.

As the crowd shouted encouragement on the final line, John risked all on a clipped turn to the last and the bay stallion showed phenomenal care behind as he did all he could to leave the rail standing.

Drama to the end

WHILE their valiant efforts fell a gut-wrenching 0.08 of a second short of target, the crowd at Syon Park had one more contender in



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DO YOU HAVE A SHOWJUMPING STORY?

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which to invest their hopes – last to jump Scott Brash and the mighty Hello Sanctos.

Form favoured the British, with the London legs having witnessed a home triumph since their inception in 2013. Ben Maher and Cella took the title at the inaugural Olympic Park event, while Scott and Sanctos had been victorious at Horse Guards 12 months previously.

It was a rare opportunity to see Lord and Lady Harris and Lady Kirkham's staggeringly consistent 13-year-old jump on home turf, and he looked in strong contention as he picked up pace to fly the water tray three from home. But ice-cool Scott's risk on the economical line to the final vertical didn't pay off, and he took a pole in 35.53sec – just 0.54 of a second behind John and Argento.

"I just couldn't catch Rolf, he was too quick, but I wasn't far away," said John, who still netted a satisfying €80,000 (£57,000) for his second place. "To the second last I was a bit untidy, I could have done one stride less there but he was a bit excited at that point. I think I went the wrong way through the finish, if I'd have turned right I might have saved a few hundredths."

Rolf acknowledged that the 59-year-old Brit had him worried.

"I was sweating, John was very, very close and we know Scott can go super fast – but he didn't have

TALKING POINT

Syon Park

THIS new venue for the third running of the London leg of the Longines Global Champions Tour (GCT) met with universal approval from competitors (see also news, page 5).

Last year's iconic setting at Horse Guards Parade in central London had drawn criticism after horses and riders were forced to cross St James's Park to access the competition arena.

Logistics were also problematic at the location, with a shuttle service required to ferry competitors from the lorry park to the stables, and restricted space for stabling and warm-up.

While glamorous backdrops are a longstanding feature of the GCT, what Syon Park lacks in instant recognition it makes up for in practicality. An unexpected oasis of parkland in Isleworth, situated just nine miles from Charing Cross, the 200-acre site is the London home of the Duke of Northumberland.

Rolf-Göran Bengtsson was one competitor to highlight the improvements the venue brought to the London leg of the GCT. "There are good facilities and a good warm-up space and it's been easy to make an even better competition out of it," said the grand prix victor.

the best luck today," he added. "It was a close race to the end."

Head of the table

While the €132,000 (£94,000) winner's bonus eluded him, Scott's sixth-place finish was sufficient to elevate him to the head of the GCT rankings, with four more events left to contest.

He knocked Portugal's Luciana Diniz from the top spot as he added to points from three victories already this season – at Miami, Monaco and Estoril – to bring his total to 274. Having headed the GCT series championship for the past two years, a record-breaking third

consecutive victory looks to be within reach.

"It's nice to be top at this stage," said Scott, who also heads the FEI Longines world rankings list. "I'll compete at the other venues from Rome onwards so I have a couple of extra chances."

Rolf's win places him back in the game on the rankings leaderboard, as he climbs to fourth on 198 points, sitting just behind Christian Ahlmann on 204.

"I want to try to go to the rest of the shows coming up on the GCT, everything is not over yet," said the Swede. "Scott is a bit far away with three wins though – that's very hard to beat."

COMMENT

Michael Whitaker



'Giving the sport a lift'

THERE was only one complaint to be made about the London GCT – the weather. It not only rained solidly for two of the three days, it was also freezing.

We were thankful for the cover over the warm-up as without it we'd have been absolutely drenched.

The new location at Syon Park was top-class. There was a lot more room than at the last two London shows, particularly Horse Guards where the warm-up was incredibly tight.

Losing the central location did mean it lacked in atmosphere, but the weather really didn't help. It would have taken an extremely dedicated person to sit out in the stands on the Friday.

That said, with a show like this it is important to attract as many people as possible and I wonder if giving away tickets to the first day might improve the numbers (news, p5). Once people see what is on offer, they will come back.

The grand prix itself was unbelievable – big, fast and the finish was very close. I thought John [Whitaker] was out in front even at the last fence, but he lost it over the line.

My own show was disappointing, but I was very pleased with my son Jack, who was third in Sunday's 1.35m CSI2* on Saveur – only his second appearance at this level.

Having a show like this gives the sport a lift and it was a shame more people couldn't come to see it. **H&H**



A triple clear lands Frenchman Simon Delestre in a profitable third place with the selle Français stallion Qlassic Bois Margot

SUPPORTING CLASSES



Laura Renwick's well-planned jump-off pays off as she and Bintang II secure a British victory in the CSI5* Massimo Dutti Trophy

Bintang leads British charge

Laura Renwick maintains British pride by taking a top podium spot in front of a delighted home crowd

WHILE the grand prix may have fallen to foreign conquest, Laura Renwick ensured that Sunday's 1.55m "consolation" class – the CSI5* Massimo Dutti trophy – was a thriller.

Uliano Vezzani's jump-off track was a fitting finale for three days of high-calibre jumping, closing with a long, daring run to a huge oxer at the last that kept the spectators on the edge of their seats.

Fourteen riders contested the second phase, where Italian Emanuele Massimiliano Bianchi produced a startling midfield lead on the 11-year-old Isco De Amoranda that appeared untouchable.

But Britain's formidable leading lady rider was in a favourable late draw, and she combined strategy and the huge scope of nine-year-old Bintang II

to find another 0.61 of a second.

"He has a huge stride and the last run really suited him. He was turning back off nothing," said Laura, who had found even more ground with her economical line to the final oxer.

"I came out a little bit at the fence before and jumped it heading that way. The others had jumped it straight and it took them longer to come back round.

"I thought 'we've got one' [a stride] and I knew he'd jump the last. It was one of those rounds that just went exactly to plan."

It was a well-deserved €30,185 (£21,500) bonus for the pair, who'd had the "stupidest" first fence down in the previous day's grand prix. Having picked up a second place at a five-star a few days previously, they were knocking on the door for a big win.

"He's been fantastic and very

responsive all weekend," added Laura. "He can be a bit headstrong and I change his bridle fairly regularly. I got a new one in France which puts a bit of pressure on the nose rather than the mouth. Before I'd have lost him a little through the shoulder, but he really had his engine under him the whole way."

Kevin Staut's "horse of his heart" Silvana HDC won Friday's 1.50m class from first draw with some superb pathfinding lines.

A reverse "S" over a central vertical caused multiple errors of judgement in the 12-strong jump-off, but the Frenchman was masterful on the 16-year-old grey mare.

"I did seven strides rather than eight on the line before and it gave me a good distance [for the turn]," said Kevin. "She has fantastic balance even when it's long and she always listens and is

ready to turn, so I had a very competitive first part of the jump-off.

"When you ride a careful horse like her, you just have to think of the line to take," he added.

Switzerland's Jane Richard Philips braved the worst of the British weather to head the opening CSI5* line up, a 1.45m two-phase, on her top ride Pablo De Virton.

"It wasn't easy, the rain was really hard, but my horse always jumps amazingly," said Jane, of the consistent 12-year-old selle Français. "He'd do anything for me – I think he'd jump through fire."

With his GCT victory in the grand prix at Chantilly still fresh, Belgian Gregory Wathelet collected a win in Saturday's 1.45m/1.50m class with speed horse Egano Van Het Slogenhof.

He saw off a rival bid from Scott Brash and Hello Annie, who

stopped the clock just 0.12 of a second behind.

Pavitt wins at first GCT

CLAIRE BEECROFT took an exhilarating win for Britain in Friday's 1.30m with the diminutive Vanda Cartier, finishing three seconds ahead of Jake Saywell and Special K IV.

"She was a raving nutter last year and ran off from day one until the end – even a walk through the park blew her brain," said Claire. "She had three months off at Christmas, she thought about everything she'd been taught and finally it looks like we're there. She just needed some self-belief."

The super-sharp nine-year-old has jumped at most of the GCT legs this season.

"I'm missing a lead horse so she's had to run up the top.

What she lacks in scope she makes up for in technique. She's phenomenal through her back and she always tries," Claire added.

Nicole Pavitt contributed to the

home tally with an impressive 1.40m/1.45m win on Prince Sultan Saud's 10-year-old mare Shahenaz.

"I'm really fortunate Old Lodge [the horse's owners] have let me come here," said Nicole, who was at her first GCT. "I got her in February and it took a while to bond but she's a horse with a lot of potential."

It was a very strong weekend for the Americas. Eighteen-year-old Mexican rider Eugenio Garza Perez – who bases himself in Dallas and Florida – collected two sizzling wins at 1.40m and 1.35m level on his rides Bariano and Boemerang Van Generhese.

"I don't mind the weather if it goes like this," said Eugenio, who has one more show in Dinard, France, before returning his five horses to the States.

Boemerang is a new acquisition this season who was at his first two-star.

"It was the first day we got to see what he was made of," said Eugenio. "I was going all out as there were fast riders behind me."

He missed out on a third victory by the smallest margin that the timing permits, when 16-year-old Emma Heise beat him by 0.01 of a second in Sunday's 1.40m with Little Lady Z.

Emma, who is originally from Chicago, divides her year between Florida and England, where she is based with Nick Skelton.

"I knew Eugenio would be the one I had to chase, he's had an insane weekend," she said.

Emma has ridden the 14-year-old mare for one year.

"We've just started really clicking," she said. "We took it slow earlier in the show, which worked for today. She likes to go as fast as she can – I ride racehorses some mornings but she's the fastest horse I've sat on yet."

Fellow US rider Allison Toffolon justified her summer pursuing the GCT in Europe when she picked up her first victory of the series on leased ride Willow.

"It's my first summer competing over here and I

brought over just the one horse, Gatsby, so I wanted another one," said art history student Allison. "Gatsby is quite similar in terms of pace – they're both quite hot – so I've just had to get used to her jump." **H&H**

RESULTS

24 July: CSI2* 1.15m. – 1, Blush (K Watts) GBR; 2, G And C Jartrun (G Mirabal) VEN; 3, Billy Reel (Z Adams) GBR. **CSI2* 1.30m.** – 1, Vanda Cartier (C Beecroft) GBR; 2, Special K IV (J Saywell) GBR; 3, Boemerang Van Generhese (E Garza Perez) MEX. **CSI2* 1.40m.** – 1, Bariano (E Garza Perez) MEX; 2, Gatsby (A Toffolon) USA; 3, Quite Cadiz (S Fawcett) GBR. **CSI5* 1.45m.** – 1, Pablo De Virton (J Richard Phillips) SUL; 2, Varo M (A Al Sharbatly) KSA; 3, Heliador Hybris (L Renwick) GBR. **CSI5* 1.50m.** – 1, Silvana HDC (K Staut) FRA; 2, Vadetia Van Het Mettenhof (E Bianchi) ITA; 3, Carinjo HDC (P Delaveau) FRA. **25 July: CSI2* 1.30m/1.35m.** – 1, Willow (A Toffolon) USA; 2, Phenix Royal (C N Tyree) USA; 3, Connery (M Couperie) FRA. **CSI2* 1.15m/1.20m.** – 1, Blush; 2, Fleur Du Rouet (A Ray) GBR; 3, Serendy Pity (T Vlock) USA. **CSI2* 1.40m/1.45m.** – 1, Shahenaz (N Pavitt) GBR; 2, Viper Vrombautshoeve Z (E Heise) USA; 3, Athena (C Reid) USA. **CSI5* 1.45m/1.50m.** – 1, Egano Van Het Slogenhof (G Wathelot) BEL; 2, Hello Annie (S Brash) GBR; 3, Nippon D'Elle (R-Y Bost) FRA. **26 July: CSI2* 1.15m/1.20m.** – 1, Blush; 2, G And C Leroy (C Mirabal) VEN; 3, Cooper V (M Karlsson) SWE. **CSI2* 1.30m/1.35m.** – 1, Boemerang Van Generhese; 2, Vitesse (H McNeerney) USA; 3, Saviour (J Whitaker) GBR. **CSI2* 1.45 final.** – 1, Little Lady Z (E Heise) USA; 2, Bariano; 3, Enjoy Louis (C N Tyree) USA. **CSI5* 1.50/1.55m.** – 1, Bintang II (L Renwick) GBR; 2, Isco De Amoranda (E Massimiliano Bianchi) ITA; 3, All Star 5 (D Lynch) IRL.

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Douglas Duffin and the impressive Djoel leap to victory in the H&H Foxhunter second round – and book their HOYS place



Duffin and Djoel on a roll

Scottish Extravaganza, Ingliston, Edinburgh

17–19 July

By Mark McGowan

DOUGLAS DUFFIN continued his unbelievable run of recent form when he took a convincing victory in the H&H Foxhunter second round with Nicky Morgan's impressive seven-year-old chestnut Djoel.

The Fife-based rider, who won this class last year, rode one of only two treble clears to book a place at this year's Horse of the Year Show (HOYS) final –

despite facing stiff opposition in the 12-strong jump-off.

"He had a good warm-up on the Friday in the newcomers second round and although he had a fence in the final round, he felt well in himself," said Douglas about his ride of four months.

With successful campaigns this year already including the Spanish Sunshine Tour and a recent winter grade C victory at Hickstead, Douglas added: "He's gained so much experience in such a short space of time, and although this was a big step up for him today, he benefited from three uncomplicated rounds."

Daniel Moseley made his journey north with Old Lodge's Damman worthwhile when he took the second qualifying ticket. He's had just three weeks to strike-up a partnership with the seven-year-old.

"He's by no means the finished article, but he's definitely one who will come on the more experience he gets at this height."

With only a few training shows in preparation for this event along with a previous attempt at the Southview equivalent, he added: "Today was spot-on for him. It was all about the jumping in every round – he's not ready to be

pushed against the clock in this type of class, so he's definitely better for the whole experience."

Millie gets her ticket

MILLIE ALLEN booked a place in her first senior national final courtesy of victory in the newcomers second round with Julia Musto's six-year-old Senator Little Lusario.

An 80-strong field came forward in their bid to clinch one of two HOYS tickets, but it was the north-east rider who grabbed her chance from midway through the final jump-off.

"This show is becoming a bit of

a family favourite, but I knew what I had to do to get my hands on one of the places. It meant applying a bit of pressure to the mare, but she responded well and didn't seem fazed in the slightest," said Millie, whose sister Pippa was victorious at the same venue the previous year.

"This will be my first time at HOYS riding horses, so the plan between now and then will be to get her some indoor experience, which she hasn't had a great deal of so far," Millie added of the home-bred mare.

Last to go into the jump-off, Annabel Shields remained ice cool to take the second qualifying place with her father Robert Shields' Irokko Van De Noordheuvel.

The seven-year-old coped with impressive ease down the imposing final line.

"His jump is not in question, but right now I'm having to work a little bit on my steering," said Annabel, who has two rides through to the final. "He's been in the third round of every qualifier



'Exciting prospect' – James Smith and Quattro 27 top the 1.40m grand prix

so far, but today's jump-off was more about forward riding than tight options."

James Smith gave his new owner Jim Wilmer plenty to celebrate on the final day, when he took the top spot in the Scottish British Showjumping 1.40m grand prix with Quattro 27.

One of nine to progress to the timed round, James – who up until three weeks ago was still jumping his ride around 1.20m

tracks – made little of the 12-fence test to add the £500 first prize to his 1.30m victory during the opening day.

"It was important for me when I got him that we concentrated initially on some smaller classes to build up his confidence. Today he definitely felt like he had loads more to give. He's a really exciting prospect to run alongside some of my others at this stage," said James.

RESULTS

1.15m. – 1, Valdiron (J Smith); 2, Tawnmore Lux Furious (R Kenyon); 3, Top Shot Million (F Macintyre). **newcomers 2nd round.** – 1, Senator Little Lusario (M Allen); 2, Irokko Van De Noordheuvel (A Shields); 3, For Star (S Buckley). **1.30m.** – 1, Quattro 27 (J Smith); 2, Varuni Z (A Shields); 3, Quelli (J Kirk). **1.05m.** – 1, Glow DK (L Stewart); 2, Guidamdale (H Brogan); 3, Wizard XI (A Ogilvie). **newcomers.** – 1, Dalcotes Sykes (A Shields); 2, Elektra VIII (M Irving); 3, Galwaybay Jessie (H Larson). **1.10m.** – 1, Vurelise (L Templeton); 2, Urminka (S Hutton); 3, Avenue Sow (S Brady). **H&H Foxhunter.** – 1, Savana Gold II (M Turnbull); 2, Cojack (A Whiteway); 3, Codean (L Saywell). **1.30m.** – 1, Miss Lyckad (J Andrews); 2, Anytime II (A Whiteway); 3, Viana Van De Vrombouthoeve (E Milton). **1.25m.** – 1, Fauber (D Harland); 2, Amadeus VII (T Nicholson); 3, McKenzie II (I Warnock). **H&H Foxhunter 2nd round.** – 1, Djoel (D Duffin); 2, Damman (D Moseley); 3, Dienna (L Saywell). **gp.** – 1, Quattro 27; 2, Quelli; 3, Titi D'Oase (L Guild). **Lochleven Equine 1.05m final.** – 1, Elle Clover (K Boyd); 2, Coulters Candy (N Devlin); 3, L'Aurore Des Vavres (S Lohar). **LPW Finance final.** – 1, Zippo III (E Ryder); 2, Drumconnick Verdi (T Nicholson); 3, Tawnmore Lux Furious (A Craig)

Relegated into second place by only a hundredth of a second, Gemma Kirk was still upbeat after her performance with Quelli. "This is the first real test he's had since we won a class here last month at the Royal Highland Show, but as usual he gave it his all for me, so I have no complaints about the result," she said. **H&H**

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Tia makes it a one-two for Pavitt

Addington Summer Classic, Bucks

17-20 July

By Sarah Radford

WHEN Nicole Pavitt is on this sort of form, the others might as well save their diesel money. The West Sussex rider didn't give them a look-in during two of the show's three main-draw classes.

After landing both the available Horse of the Year Show (HOYS) tickets with a one-two in the newcomers second round, she rounded-off her coup by taking the top two places in the area trial.

It was last year's newcomers champion Tia Semilly who ably secured the £1,000 first prize in the 1.55m class, as Nicole clipped 0.49 of a second off her own lead on Ultimate Z.

The nine-year-old gelding had set a decent bar from first draw, which Phillip Miller tried in vain to catch with the first of his two jump-off rides, Unbelievable Lady.

Jay Halim (VIP) and Ben Walker (Text Back) both faulted, before Nicole returned to stamp her authority with a fast but comfortable clear on Old Lodge's eight-year-old mare.

A final bid from Phillip Miller and Brendon Stud's Sussex Caretino was quashed as the nine-year-old mare added two rails to her sheet.

"It was difficult to see where you could make the time up, but she is just naturally quicker," said Nicole. "With Tia you just have to sit, whereas with Ultimate Z you have to generate him a bit more."

The Diamant De Semilly daughter was a late starter, having had a foal before being initially produced by Steven Franks. She was aimed at this show after recently having some embryos taken.

"It made her a bit of a madam and I thought another round might get her back to normal. As it turned out I didn't need to – her hormones had settled down," said Nicole. "Fingers crossed we've got a For Pleasure embryo from her."



Tia Semilly knocks half a second off Ultimate Z's time to give Nicole Pavitt the first and second spots in the area trial

Three rides at Birmingham

IT was Doucardi who claimed the top ticket in a 121-strong newcomers second round, while Hickstead six-year-old jumping champion Gemmarco was runner-up.

"My dad said when I went in on Doucardi, 'Just try and get a ticket for the national championships,' but being me, I couldn't help myself and went for it," said Nicole, who produced two of eight treble clears. "Gemmarco was second-to-last in the jump-off, and already qualified for Stoneleigh, so I thought, 'I don't want another ticket for that, I

want one for HOYS.'"

Nicole now has three rides headed to Birmingham – with Leen OL also qualified – but a Foxhunter ticket has eluded her this season.

"I was third in the Foxhunter last year [on Contessa IV] and it was the one I always wanted to win. It broke my heart for months," added Nicole. "Most will be waiting until next year to aim at Foxhunter, but I'll do Hickstead and, if we qualify, I'll be delighted, although I'm not pressing for it."

It was two promising stallions who picked up their Foxhunter passes at this show. Lee Williams

and Jenson 55 produced the fastest of three treble clears to undercut Robert Whitaker and Brendon Stud's Fabrice Van Overis by one second.

Charlotte Platt's second generation home-bred has had solid recent form with a win in the Welsh Masters seven and eight-year-old grand prix, but the son of Verdi wasn't originally targeted at this year's Foxhunter.

"It was a bit of a late decision, so we'll see if there are any chances at tickets for the other classes left," said Lee. "We'll try to jump him indoors a bit to prepare him for the final." **H&H**

RESULTS

Newcomers. – 1, Anis De La Piece (S O'Reilly); 2, Fabulous Felix (T Palmer Lewis); 3, Clicquot II (O Gent). **Foxhunter.** – 1, Kimba Flamenco (E J Slater); 2, Bolanlina (R Parker); 3, For Sienna Z (M Goddard). **1.20m open.** – 1, Naomi 55 (N Wilson); 2, Constant II (C Beecroft); 3, Maximo De Forests (H Rees). **1.25m open.** – 1, Acapulca IV (B Drea); 2, Severly Hille (J Burgess); 3, Quadrofoglia Z (S John). **national B&C h'cap qual.** – 1, Billy Fanta (L Bunn); 2, Deangelo II (P Bevan); 3, Kimba Flamenco (E J Slater). **national 1.30m open.** – 1, Grange Komet (M Potter); 2, Assy Sina (E Hilton); 3, Corella F (J Fisher). **Foxhunter.** – 1, Carnivals Wonder (C Fellows); 2, Marchello Z (M Spencer); 3, Quenotte (C Fellows). **1.20m open.** – 1, Whisper

II (H Rees); 2, Churchill III (B Walker); 3, Okehurst Unbelievable III (B Drea). **newcomers 2nd rnd.** – 1, Doucardi (N Pavitt); 2, Gemmarco 16 (N Pavitt); 3, Booming Blue Z (A Burchmore-Eames). **1.35m open.** – 1, Hartleymanor Venus (J Charlesworth); 2, Beat Me (C Fellows); 3, Sussex Caretino (P Miller). **newcomers.** – 1, Aster De La Cense (M Spencer); 2, Okehurst Miss Mexico (B Drea); 3, Bijoux Vincenza (S Kapel). **newcomers.** – 1, BB Balou (H Rees); 2, Lula (A Edwards); 3, LK Ten Cents (H Webster). **Foxhunter.** – 1, Domino VII (J Trunkfield); 2, Jule Van Den Tinnenpot (M Spencer); 3, Quentos II (P Moon). **1.20m open.** – 1, Diamond Touch II (R Parker); 2, Badien Gold V (J Lanni); 3, Andromeda III (A Macglynn). **1.25m open.** – 1, Okehurst Unbelievable III; 2, Acapulca (M Drea);

3, Quadrofoglia Z. **national B&C h'cap qual.** – 1, Hi Midnight Millie (C Winchester); 2, Bolton Gate Ben (C Pritchard); 3, Domino VII. **national 1.30m open.** – 1, Corella F (J Fisher); 2, Hasj VH Vliegendorf (C Winchester); 3, Blazer B (A Edwards). **Foxhunter.** – 1, Carnivals Wonder; 2, Perfick Miss Amber (A Walters); 3, Firkov Du Rouet (M Routledge). **1.20m open.** – 1, Churchill III; 2, Badien Gold V; 3, Strides Contree (L Collett). **Foxhunter 2nd rnd.** – 1, Jenson 55 (L Williams); 2, Fabrice Van Overis (R Whitaker); 3, Lambus (J Dimmock). **national B&C h'cap qual.** – 1, Abrisco (J Halim); 2, Casti Aneira (A Burchmore Eames); 3, Bombay III (T Breen). **area trial.** – 1, Tia Semilly (N Pavitt); 2, Ultimate Z (N Pavitt); 3, Unbelievable Lady (P Miller).



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Mette Assouline claims advanced medium and PSG titles aboard the talented AD Ratino, by Rotspun, for whom she has grand prix hopes

Mission accomplished for Assouline

Sparsholt Regional Championships, Hants
21–23 July
By Helen Triggs

METTE ASSOULINE was the only rider to achieve double title status. She won both advanced medium and prix st georges (PSG) titles riding her father Torben

Lubke's AD Ratino.

"He was meant to be a short-term project but I enjoyed him so much he's become a long-term one," said Mette.

The nine-year-old is by Rotspun out of a Walt Disney mare and has low mileage but a lot of potential.

"He's the horse that has got me back into competition, and he is

showing he's very talented for the grand prix work," Mette added.

Despite a spook in her PSG test, Mette scored 68.94%, though she felt that the horse was less confident in the arena than the previous day.

"Still, the things that came off, came off well," she commented.

As she pointed out, most of the extensions in the PSG were

towards the trade stands and spectators and a lot of horses found that a challenge.

With her other ride, Royal Tea, also qualifying for the nationals by finishing second in the advanced medium, Mette accomplished her mission. Team Assouline will now move on to other regionals trying to get husband Michel and head girl Jessica Thompson also qualified.

Vicki Thompson-Winfield, second in the PSG with Zidane VIII, took the inter I title with Toni Terry's Belissimo M stallion, Beltoni. The 10-year-old, who proved steady and consistent in the arena, is a dual purpose breeding and competition horse, and is very popular in Germany where he has bred 400 foals.

"He's a very special horse who can combine his stud work with competing and both Toni and I ride him," said Vicki.

Saving the best for last

THE advanced medium restricted was the last competition of the show and was won by the last competitor in the arena, Sadie Smith, riding Eddie Clapcott's Serano Gold stallion, Serano II.

Serano moved to Sadie's base with Sarah Tyler-Evans six months ago and his new routine of regular turnout and hacking has brought out his calm temperament.

In April, the pair were still competing at novice, and they did just two tests at advanced medium to qualify for the regionals. Despite his lack of mileage, the attractive black stallion seemed confident in the arena, with established changes and only his walk pirouettes still looking a bit green.

Another newcomer to the level was Absinth W, ridden by Molly Key, who placed third after only a few outings. Molly, who impressed at the show with her tactful riding and good presentation of all her horses, took a medium open title with her 12-year-old Without Doubt thoroughbred, Charter Party.

"He was ridden by several different people and then I rode him for his breeders Diane and Charles MacDonald, who gave him to me for Christmas," said Molly. "He's very hot tempered but today he went the best he ever has."

The other open medium title



Edited by
Polly Bryan

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Kate Rowland and six-year-old Erasmus I post 73.9% en route to novice open victory

went to Amy Stovold with her own and Nadia Lister's Louboutin, a very handsome and athletic seven-year-old by Licotus.

"His highlights are his canter and his ability to sit," said Amy. "He's definitely one for the future and we're already playing with the piaffe and passage at home."

'He was slightly volatile but she's turned him into My Little Pony'

Roland Tong
on Kate Rowland's hard work with Erasmus I

Sara-Jane Lanning racked up her 19th regional title with her own and Andrew Griffin's Furstano with an elementary open win. Despite Sara only acquiring him in June, the Furst Piccolo 11-year-old is turning into a red rosette machine.

"We qualified him in the last two weeks before the closing date," said Sara who won the same title last year on Mi Amigo.

Roland Tong and Kate Rowland's Erasmus I is a stunning horse who catches the judge's eye. Fresh from victory at Hickstead in the international six-year-old championship, Erasmus won his novice open title with one of the show's top scores – 73.9%.

"Kate has done the most amazing job," said Roland. "He was slightly volatile but she's turned him into My Little Pony."



Multi-talented stallion Beltoni takes the inter I title under Vicki Thompson-Winfield

ONES TO WATCH

Novice winners

THE youngest winner was Dylan Deutrom, Matt Hicks' 17-year-old working pupil. Riding Matt and Matthew Metcalfe's eight-year-old Balance (pictured, right), the competition newcomer scored 74% to win a novice restricted title.

The other novice restricted champion, Pitingo II, was the only PRE horse at the nationals last year, after getting a wild card for the prelim championship. His rider Sara Malpass, who is head girl for Edward Creamer, did not look for an Iberian specifically but is enjoying Pitingo's good temperament and personality.



Serano II belies his lack of mileage to land an advanced medium title with Sadie Smith

Stephen Way's ride Secret Picnic demonstrates that you don't need fancy bloodlines or youth to achieve success. Nineteen-year-old "Whisper", one of the elementary open champions, was bought from a

riding school as a three-year-old and had a successful career eventing to four-star. After a major injury and having a foal, she has been brought back into work and now does dressage "for fun". **H&H**

RESULTS

Prelim 15 (F Wilson). – 1, Radway Harlequin (E Nelson) 72.6; 2, Per Queno (K Blackman) 71.17; 3, Irish Millennium (A Pearse) 72.17. **BackinAction prelim 17Q (H Ashley, C Speer, J Rooney).** – 1, Deutz (P Gover) 74.74; 2, Irish Millennium 70.83; 3, Delhurens Upsey Daisy (E Scholes) 70.57. **sec A. (C Gardiner, M Robley, J Burtwell).** – 1, Wizard VI (K Frankham) 70.7; 2, Plinius B (M Gibbons) 68.2; 3, Donna Duero (M Lawless) 67.82. **nov 37Q (M Keen).** – 1, Ratino (N Aston) 74.1; 2, Cadanbyrig No Warning (S Way) 73.75; 3, Feel Fine (J Johns) 68.57. **rest.** – 1, Jessica's Law (L Clarke Spence) 70.35; 2, Lord Lieutenant (L Sharpe) 69.28; 3, So Enamoured (F Passmore) 68.75. **Dodson & Horrell nov 39Q (P Watts, R Pickles, S Morrison).** – 1, Erasmus I (K Rowland) 73.9; 2, Highness Helena AV (A Erevik) 71.89; 3, Bear (J Atkin) 71.37. **sec A (N Goodman, C Thornton, J Wood).** – 1, Dante X (J Wicks) 72.75; 2, Greenlanes Enigma (C Sawyer) 70.23; 3, Secret Picnic (S Way) 69.65. **rest (J McGarel-Groves, D Wardle, T Thorne).** – 1, Pitingo II (S Malpass) 68.9; 2, Rohdstar (J Clare) 68.1; 3, Ratino 67.93. **sec A (P Watts, M Robley, H Ashley).** – 1, Balance (D Deutrom) 74.48; 2, Moonshine Marcus (M Waller) 71.66; 3, Here Be Dragons (S Parkinson) 71.37. **elem 53Q (S Wood).** – 1, Balance 70.73; 2, Sunlit Uplands (A Hinchliffe) 69.11; 3, Swanky (L Pilbeam) 68.08. **elem 53Q (A Duck).** – 1, Hazelhope Really Bling (J Bright) 74.41; 2, Pauldarys Lord Liberty (R Bamford) 71.91; 3, Secret Picnic (S Way) 70. **rest.** – 1, Balance (D Deutrom) 71.91; 2, Sunlit Uplands (A Hinchliffe) 71.17; 3, Favory Valencia (K Carrall-Willocks) 66.32. **Nettex elem 59Q (S Petty, P Watts, H Ashley).** – 1, Furstano (SJ Lanning) 74.21;

2, Eldorado (E Woolley) 73.8; 3, Enjoy II (J Phillips) 72.34. **sec A (J Ward, L Baldwin, D Wardle).** – 1, Secret Picnic 70.57; 2, Everton L (A Wyatt) 69.11; 3, BamBam (R Waine) 68.12. **rest (M Robley, S Rowlands, K Ratcliffe).** – 1, Rouletta (J Carlin) 70.93; 2, Lazulith (R Bryson) 69.42; 3, Rock My Life (C Ashby) 68.75. **sec A (M Drewe, H Ashley, A Keen).** – 1, Beauty B (C Monk) 71.09; 2, Faran (B Smith) 68.8; 3, Terebrid Midnight Fable (C Van Antwerpen) 68.4. **med 73Q (S Wood).** – 1, Rotspons Rockin (R Swain) 69.26; 2, Farhills Flaminia (N Hodge) 67.5; 3, Rubinho (V Perry) 65.44; **rest.** – 1, DHL Zanzibar (R Fone) 68.52; 2, Surprise Addition (R Lade) 67.79; 3, Bashful Suitor (L Wareham) 67.35. **TopSpec med 75Q (J Head, K Mepharm, J Gillett).** – 1, Louboutin (A Stovold) 71.3; 2, Eldorado 71.03; 3, Seagry Sanay (S Rahmatalla) 70.76. **sec A (P Gardiner, W Fitness, L Baldwin).** – 1, Charter Party (M Key) 72.61; 2, Mi Amigo (SJ Lanning) 72.56; 3, Russki (L Beckett) 72.29. **rest (G Makey-Harfield, S McMahon, G Leverett).** – 1, Andree B (F Channon) 71.26; 2, Nibley Uj Lady Lara (A Baker) 71.21; 3, Pauldarys Lord Liberty (R Bamford) 68.64. **Equine Construction adv med 98Q (S Andrews, A Anderson, N Goodman).** – 1, AD Ratino (M Assouline) 72.8; 2, Royal Tea (M Assouline) 71.62; 3, Zanthoos Himself (J Palmer) 71.27. **rest.** – 1, Serano II (S Smith) 72.5; 2, Sheepcote Casablanca (E Cotterill) 70; 3, Absinth W (M Key) 69.25. **Fairfax Saddles PSG Q (K Fox, W Fitness, C Landolt).** – 1, AD Ratino 68.94; 2, Zidane VIII (H Thompson-Winfield) 68.77; 3, Donnerromeo (D Timson) 68.5. **Saracen Horse Feeds inter I (H Ashley, L Jenkins, M Robins).** – 1, Beltoni (V Winfield-Thompson) 69.73; 2, Minain (K Mepharm) 68.47; 3, Zidane VIII 68.57.

Chrissy Leak proves there's more to It's Just Rosie than meets the eye – the seven-year-old cob, who was originally bought from Appleby Fair, scoops prelim victory



Rosie shows her true colours

Somerford Regional Championships, Cheshire

18-20 July

By Jo Prestwich

CHRISSY LEAK and her coloured cob It's Just Rosie proved that you can win without a warmblood, claiming victory in section B of the prelim – something that had been beyond the rider's wildest dreams. Seven-year-old Rosie was bought three years ago from Cobs'n'Plods, who in turn had bought her out of Appleby Fair.

"I bought her to show in Coloured Horse and Pony Society classes," said Chrissy, who works as a conductor for Northern Rail and trains with Lottie Flinn.

"She's done very well but as she's such a free mover I thought I'd give dressage a go. She's been fantastic – I knew she'd done a good test today but I still can't believe we've won!"

Describing Freya Metters' 16.2hh novice section B winner Maesmynach Jester as a cob would surprise a few, but he is a registered Welsh section D.

Freya initially bought Jester to jump, qualifying him for the Scope Festival, and is heading next to the Pony Club Championships, where she has qualified for the open showjumping representing

the Wheelton & District branch.

"He was on the same yard as my horse," said Freya, a freelance groom and rider. "Mine was lame, and after putting Jester over a fence I decided he'd be a good one to buy."

The win was not without its drama, however, as the Maesmynach Commander x Maesmynach Welsh Flyer gelding trotted down the arena, spooked, reared and whipped round before starting his test.

Cerian Screen's home-bred Donna Bella won section A of the prelim. The seven-year-old is by Donnersohn out of an Obelisk mare who Cerian bought with the intention of competing.

"I then had no time, so I put her in-foal and Donna Bella is the result," said Cerian, who works as a pharmacist.

Somerford was the rider's first competition away from her local venues.

"It was a bit daunting coming

here," admitted Cerian, who had to borrow a van to tow her trailer from Lampeter after her car gave up the ghost the day before.

"But wow, was it worth the journey," she said. "It's an amazing place, and the organisers were so friendly and made me very welcome."

Undercover in the spotlight

HAVING retired her advanced horse Puccini V 12 months ago, Tracy Tomlinson was expecting to take a back seat at the higher levels. But a chance conversation with Sara Branch, who runs Cool Equestrian, resulted in a win in the inter I with Averil Blundell's Undercover.

"I can't believe that a passing comment earned me the ride on a horse like this," said Tracy. "When I got him at the beginning of the year he hadn't been out competing for 15 months, although he had been in work."

Sarah Kingwells made up for lost time by winning the elementary open with her former Hickstead International young dressage champion, The Contact People Destiny D. The Desperados x Sandro Hit mare qualified again last year, but Sarah was pregnant so the mare did very little.

"She did the young horse class here just over a year ago and I had



Maesmynach Jester, a 16.2hh Welsh section D, wins at novice under Freya Metters

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the baby two weeks later, although he did arrive sooner than expected," admitted Sarah, who bought the horse from Astrid Bolton.

"I have her half-sister, a three-year-old, as well," she added. "Destiny's breeders tracked her down using the power of Google with just her breeding to go on. She'd done a British Eventing four-year-old class with a friend, Hannah Walkden, in the saddle, and they tracked Hannah to the vets where she worked, wrote to her care of them and eventually found me."

After last year's mammoth entries, the north-west regionals ran into an extra half day. Monday hosted the inter I, prix st georges and advanced medium open.

"Even so we ran three arenas most of Saturday and Sunday," said organiser Wayne Burrow. "I'd hoped with the extra time we might have managed to have mounted prize-givings, but it is impossible to fit them in without causing too much disruption to the competitors following on.

They'd fit in at the end but who is going to want to wait that long if they've done their test at 9am?

"I'm still hoping that someone will come up with the perfect solution," he added.

Isobel Wessel's San Marco, winner of the novice open in the capable hands of Lucy Cartwright, is a star in the making. The Status Quo x Gribaldi gelding has blitzed the young horse classes he has competed in, including winning at Hartpury on his last outing.

The five-year-old was bought at the beginning of last year, when there was still doubt as to whether Isobel's Chagal would return to competition.

"I bought him through Jane Lancashire, who sponsored the class Chagal won at the nationals," said Isobel. "I decided as I was looking I should support the sponsors. Jane sent me a small clip of this horse at his breeders in Holland and I just loved him. He's the most amazing horse to ride – if the judges got to sit on him they'd give him even more marks!" **H&H**

'He's the most amazing horse to ride – if the judges got to sit on him they'd given him even more marks!'

Isobel Wessels

on her five-year-old Status Quo gelding, San Marco

THE JUDGE'S VIEW

Judith Harris

The judge at C in the novice open felt both the top two horses, San Marco, ridden by Lucy Cartwright, and MFS French Noir (pictured, below), ridden by Jess Dunn, are exciting prospects for the future.

"San Marco has huge expressive paces and amazing balance," Judith said. "French Noir is very well established, off the ground and with a very good hindleg – two fabulous horses to look forward to."

French Noir (French Kiss x Prince Thatch), is owned by Paul, Katie and Nicola Keenan and was bred by the Moray Firth Stud in Aberdeenshire.



Lucy Cartwright shows off the impressive paces of Isobel Wessels' five-year-old San Marco, on their way to novice open victory

RESULTS

BackinAction prelim 17Q sec A (V Smyth, K Barker, A Fletcher).– 1, Donna Bella (C Screen) 72.37; 2, Moreorless 71.6; 3, Aspect (C Blunt) 70.19. **sec B** (F Lace, S Carson, A Smith).– 1, It's Just Rosie (C Leak) 70.06; 2, Falco (P Holden) 69.68; 3, Ego III (H Booth) 69.62. **Dodson & Horrell nov 39Q** (C Elvin, J Harris, C Tupling).– 1, San Marco (L Cartwright) 75.23; 2, MFS French Noir (J Dunn) 74.83; 3, White Sparrow (J Harkness) 71.78. **rest sec A** (S Probin, H Bradley, D Jones).– 1, Belissima (C Sweeney) 72.07; 2, Columbus P (D Wilson) 71.09; 3, Moreorless (A Tomlinson) 69.89. **sec B** (A Hessay, J Peberdy, A Fletcher).– 1, Maesmynach Jester (F Metters) 67.99; 2, Bianka II (B Nuttall) 67.82; 3, Brenville VDL (N Fletcher) 67.7. **Nettex elem 59Q** (J Harris, S Rodger, K Barker).– 1, The Contact People Destiny D (S Kingwells) 68.79; 2, Ode To Shannon (M Whelan) 69.64; 3, Woodlander Rallentissez (A Ingoe-Topham) 69.43. **rest sec A** (H Bradley, J Peberdy, A Fletcher).– 1, Blixem (R Jackson) 71.46; 2, Abby (H Lucas) 69.84; 3, Siglan Oberon (M O'Connor) 68.85. **sec B** (V Smyth, P Storr, S Probin).– 1, Diluvio (J McCullough) 69.01; 2, Maid In Holland (A Dixon) 68.85; 3, Appiasarri (S Gawn) 68.02. **Top Spec med 75Q** (C Elvin, A Smith, C Tupling).– 1, SL Lucci (P Peters) 76.53; 2, Leonello (L Cartwright) 70.9; 3, Sundancer II (T Smith) 69.32. **rest** (A Hessay, S Carson, C Ballantyne).– 1, Don Camillo II (G Wheeler) 69.32; 2, Lil's Unlimited Lass (H Jones) 69.05; 3, Rowangarth Rhyddian (H Dutton) 67.66. **Equine Construction adv med 98Q** (A Bennie, S Carson, K Barker).– 1, Valentijn WG (D Lever) 71.36; 2, Denford Surprise (P Peters) 70.79; 3, Rubin's Charm (T Graham) 69.3. **rest** (S Rodger, J Peberdy, H Bradley).– 1, SOS Montevideo (A Chick) 68.95; 2, Miss World (L Garland) 67.28; 3, Worame (A Thomas) 64.21. **Fairfax Saddles PSG Q**.– 1, Undercover (S Branch) 68.99; 2, Valentijn WG 67.81; 3, Sheepcote Delight (B Barnett) 67.63. **Saracen Horse Feeds inter I Q** (J Peberdy, P Storr, T Downes).– 1, Tabriz (J Rose) 67.32; 2, Donnerouge (J Critchley) 65.53; 3, Waterloo V (L Cartwright) 65.39.

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Edited by
Alice Collins

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COMMENT

Carole Mortimer



A sea change in British breeding

Iam loving that British events have embraced livestream. Being able to watch Hartpury Festival of Dressage and Barbury Horse Trials — held on the same weekend — made it possible to stay in touch with both competitions on the same day. However, keeping up with who was riding when, at which venue, was a little challenging and it was all rather time-consuming — the weekend was not exactly productive otherwise.

The gala evening at Hartpury was particularly enjoyable, especially the young horse prix st georges class, in which Isobel Wessels did a great job as compère.

It was notable that, of seven finalists, the top four horses (Woodlander Farouche, Tanton Sir Socrates, Dahling and

Sheepcote Don Calisto) were all British-bred — and two of them were ridden by second-generation British-bred riders (Michael Eilberg and Lucy Pincus).

Great British results

SO it seems that British breeders are doing a great job of breeding dressage horses — the four above all have grand prix potential.

Of course, breeding is only one factor in a successful outcome. A major reason why these horses have gone on to be successful is that they were all retained, at least initially, by their breeders, who invested in their upbringing and training. They have been brought through the grades and carefully produced while being sponsored — for want of a better word — by their breeder/owners.

And they are not isolated examples. There were plenty of other British-bred combinations doing well at Hartpury; Jon and Julie Deverill look to have a follow-up to their former team horse Half Moon Delphi in inter II winner Half Moon Dynasty. British-bred Gladstone, whose sire, Cyden Bodyguard Moorland, stands in the UK, was the winner of the four-year-old Shearwater championship, and Hawtins Stud's home-bred Fiorella also won a large potential young dressage horse class.

However, Barbury was not as encouraging. Of eight classes, five were won by New Zealand riders, three by British riders (two by William Fox-Pitt) and just one by a British-bred horse — namely Avebury, by Jumbo.

How times change

WHAT bemuses me is how relatively quickly — about 25 years — a country of event horse breeders producing horses admired the world over, seems to have become a nation of dressage horse breeders (and riders).

Only one of the 12 horses selected for the British squad for the European Eventing

Championships at Blair — Allercombe Ellie — is British-bred. Thank goodness for Jumbo — again. Seven are Irish sport horses, two are German-bred and two are Dutch-bred. Most are by jumping sires.

I have nothing against the other horses: they are all great, good-looking horses and excel at their job, but I do find it sad that we appear to have lost our way in breeding, finding or producing home-bred event horses. I have no idea why there are not more British-bred event horses making their presence felt.

Maybe we just aren't breeding enough event horses, or even the right horses. Maybe event horse breeders have become dressage horse breeders. Who knows?

But, as with any product, in order to sell you have to have the right goods, although one specialist breeder tells me that riders come to him only after they have tried Ireland, Holland and Germany. Why? I suspect there is no single answer, but I for one would be interested to know from event riders what it is they want from an event horse, and why so many no longer ride British-bred horses. **H&H**

BLOODLINES

HELLO M'LADY

BWP mare born 2006

Breeder: Jan Aegten, Bocholt, Belgium

Owner: Lady Kirkham

Rider: Scott Brash

HELLO M'LADY, who won the CSI5* Longines Global Champions Tour grand prix in Monte Carlo with Scott Brash, is certainly producing the goods promised by her pedigree. She first came to the attention of her rider when she was fourth in the five-year-old young horse championship in Lanaken (2011) with Guillaume Ruant.

Although a registered Belgian warmblood mare (birth name Gwindeline), her pedigree owes much to French and Holstein jumping lines.

She is by the famous sire Indoctro, a product of the two

big C lines of Holstein, Capitol I and Caletto II — also the bloodlines of Cassini I, Cassini II and Cento. Indoctro stood in the Netherlands and has sired an army of successful jumpers and stallions. His sons No Limit, who stands in the UK, and Orame were test champions, while Nassau won individual bronze at the 2005 European Championships.

M'Lady's dam Beach Quella is by the inimitable Baloubet De Rouet (by Galoubet A), who took Rodrigo Pessoa to three World Cup titles and individual Olympic gold in 2004. She is out of a mare by the Dutch sire Hercos, who brings the blood of Nimmerdor and of the leading thoroughbred sire Lucky Boy, an important refiner in the development of the Dutch warmblood.

M'Lady is one of five offspring out of Beach Quella; her elder full sister Fajoecha jumps for the Netherlands under Johnny Pals, and competed at the recent meeting at Hickstead.



SIRE
Indoctro (pref)
HOL1990

DAM
Beach Quella
BWP 2001

Capitol I
HOL1975

Vanessa VII (by Caletto II)
HOL1993

Baloubet De Rouet
SF1898

Quelle (by Hercos)
KWPN1989

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STAMPING OUT BAD FEET

“No foot, no horse” is a well-known saying in the horse world, and with good reason. Horses in the wild are predisposed to good quality hooves as constant roaming encourages growth while naturally paring them down



OUR modern, domesticated horse leads a very different life with us. This modern lifestyle can be detrimental to hoof health and there are many environmental challenges that act as catalysts, resulting in a change to the moisture content in the hoof and therefore weakening the structure. There are several factors that can help encourage strong hoof growth – good management, good farriery and great nutrition.

‘It is possible to have a positive effect on hoof growth through changes to our horses’ diet’

The inside story

WE rely on the hoof to support our horses in their many roles, and Mother Nature has created a minor miracle of engineering to do just that. The hoof encases and protects bones, tendons, ligaments, a hugely complex matrix of blood vessels and the delicate laminae, which all work together to aid propulsion, traction and concussion by acting as a shock absorber. The continual regeneration of the hoof is therefore vital in providing on-going physical support for the bodyweight of the horse.

Hoof size is proportional to the horse's body size, and a strong, well-shaped hoof that is the right size for the horse will evenly distribute bodyweight across the foot so there are no areas of weakness.

Hoof growth

A hoof should naturally grow on average six to 10 mm each month, giving your farrier a good foot to work with and adequate growth to trim and shape the hoof every six to eight weeks. Slower growth may be due to a number of reasons (see figure 1). When the rate of growth is good but quality of horn is poor, the hoof is left cracking,

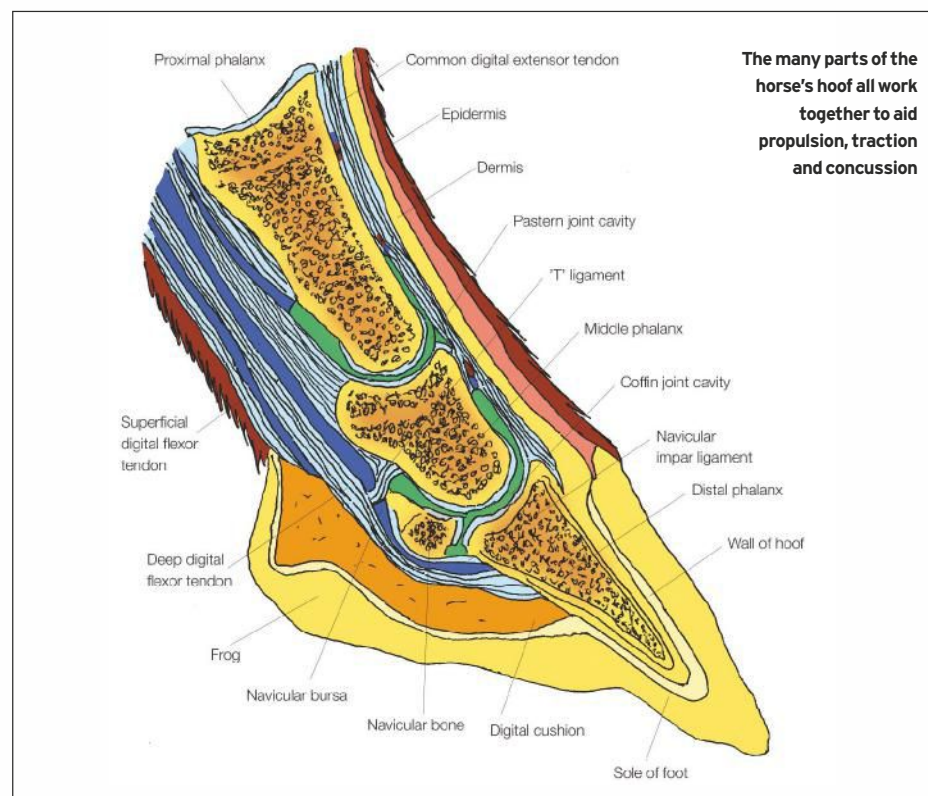
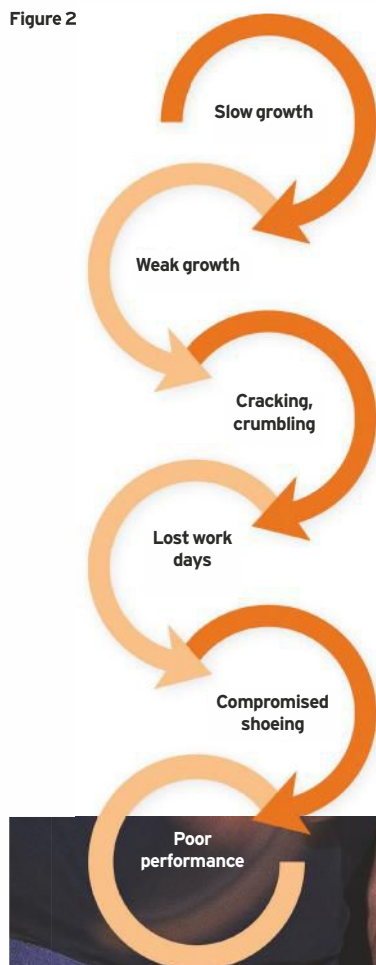
crumbling and prone to having chunks missing. Without healthy growth it becomes difficult for your farrier to manipulate the shape of the hoof for performance, and when it comes to shoeing the focus becomes simply keeping the new shoe on.

Shoeing for performance brings its own challenges. Some horses typically wear their shoes out faster than others, while different disciplines can have an effect on shoe wear. A worn shoe will have more movement and needs to be seen to by a farrier as soon as possible, as a vicious circle may commence (see figure 2).

Hoof shape

NO horse has perfect conformation and no horse has perfect hooves. A horse's conformation will often affect their way of going and research tells us that working with conformational issues rather than trying to correct them will get the best result. For example, a pigeon-toed horse is likely to wear the outside of the shoe heavily and providing there is enough hoof growth, a remedial farrier will be able to work with the hoof shape to allow consistent free movement, instead of trying to force a "balanced" hoof. This is likely to produce a more sound horse rather than trying to correct something that is out of our control.

Figure 2



Good farriery is among the factors that can help encourage strong hoof growth

WHAT AFFECTS HOOF GROWTH?

- External temperature
- Environmental moisture
- Genetics
- Nutrition
- Exercise
- Illness/injury

Figure 1

Factors affecting hoof condition

RIDING on surfaces is popular, but sand can be very abrasive for the hoof surface. Factors such as temperature and weather can also have an effect on hoof condition, but it is moisture that is likely to have the greatest influence. Hoof moisture is directly linked to hoof quality and continually evaporates from the hoof wall, so must be replaced or compensated for. In the first instance this is done internally through the blood and lymph systems, which can replenish moisture in the horn cells.

However, the wall can also draw moisture from its environment and, depending on what the British weather is doing, this can either be a great help or a hindrance. We will often have glorious sunshine for a week followed by downpours, and it is these dramatic changes in the moisture level of the environment that seem to play havoc with condition of horses' feet.

Due to our changeable weather, experienced farriers believe we should be providing daily external moisture for hooves, reducing the effects of those environmental changes that may dry the hoof and lead to cracking. It's no different to you applying a daily moisturiser to your own hands.

At the opposite end of the spectrum, excessive moisture from things such as standing in mud through the winter can distort the hoof structure internally. It's likely this is why we see such a rise in abscesses in winter.

Fuelling hoof growth

IT is possible to have a positive effect on hoof growth through changes to our horses' diet. Many horse owners are already aware of the perceived benefits of biotin, which is synthesised naturally in the horse's own gut through efficient bacterial fermentation of fibre. Biotin can be added to the diet to keep your horses hooves healthy. Recommended daily levels are between 15mg and 30mg, depending on the size of the horse or pony, to keep hooves healthy. Sometimes good basic diet and management is not enough, as many horse owners and farriers acknowledge.



By managing your horse's hooves carefully, you can aid your farrier in shoeing to maximise performance



The beauty of a healthy hoof

Nutritionally poor quality hoof growth is not always linked just to biotin levels; but, as a specialised part of the skin, or dermis, hooves can be affected by many factors affecting tissue production. Additional nutritional support for tissue growth and the liver, part of the body's own defence system, will therefore have an even greater positive effect, which will be seen in hoof strength and integrity.

Good quality hoof growth can be hard to achieve as there are many factors that can affect performance. However, with good management alongside a sound diet containing quality nutritional support both internally and externally, you can help to support your farrier so he can concentrate on working to stamp out bad feet, and help maximise your horse's performance. H&H

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COMMENT

Stephen
Clarke



‘Judges are human beings, not robots’

I can imagine how hard it is for people who have never sat in a dressage judge's box to understand how difficult the job is. I can also understand how easy it is for the “armchair critics” to point the finger and jump up and down the moment judges have the slightest differences within their scoring.

Our judges are a hardworking group of individuals with unquestionable integrity, who are doing their utmost to give correct and logical marks for every movement, but they are human beings, not robots.

When one is judging up to 50 horses a day, as was the case at the World Equestrian Games, each judge has to decide upon 1,850 marks per day. This amounts to 12,950 separate scores from seven judges — 25,900 separate scores for the two days of grand prix. It is inevitable that there will be the occasional variation of marks.

Our present system of judging has been expertly developed over many decades. Even when there are the inevitable differences over individual points, with seven judges strategically placed around the arena, and the judging supervisory panel (JSP) acting as a “safety net”, should any one judge miss a counting mistake in the changes for example, the team result from the average of the seven judges is correct for the vast majority of the scores throughout the competition.

Practical means for development

HOWEVER, I do agree that we must remain open-minded and continue to search for practical ways to develop and improve our judging of the sport.

Even though huge strides have been made, particularly over the past 20 years or so, to develop the judging through training, examination and transparency, improvements can always be made.

I had the honour of being part of the International Dressage Officials Club (IDOC) group that produced the FEI handbook for judges several years ago. This provides some detailed descriptions of each score for every movement from 10 to zero (yes, we do train our officials to judge out of 10).

At the time this document was published we invited comments and suggestions for future revisions from all the clubs, but so far

no suggestions have been put forward, even though this document has been in existence since 2007.

I now read with interest that the International Dressage Riders' Club (IDRC) is coming up with a new code of points system for judging, and will look forward to studying this new format when it is finally published.

However, I would like to point out that however many times we reinvent the wheel, it will still be operated by the same willing group of volunteers that are officiating today, and will still be subject to the same inevitable differences of opinion. Try asking seven top artists to paint an apple — none of the apples will be identical.

It is also worth thinking about the practical implications of retraining all our FEI judges around the globe.

My biggest plea would be that any new systems put forward be thoroughly tried and tested through “pilot programme” situations, before being put into action.

One suggestion would be to invite three members of the IDRC who have developed this new system to “shadow judge” at some major shows, alongside FEI judges using the existing system, and have a transparent publication of their scores available to the public as we do now.

The results would be of great interest. **H&H**

● **NEXT WEEK:** Pammy Hutton



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SOUTH-WEST

Phillips' mares show strength in depth

A junior backs up two eventing wins with dressage success – on the same two horses – while a mother-and-daughter duo strut their freestyle stuff. Here's the latest from dressage competitions around the country

G IRL power reigned at **Kingston Maurward**, Dorset (19 July), where mares from Jodie Phillips' New Forest yard won at every level, writes *Andrea Oakes*.

Jodie describes Enjoy II, the six-year-old she rode to wins at elementary and medium, as the most trainable horse she has had.

"She's so straightforward and genuinely loves it," said Jodie, who bought the Lord Leatherdale mare as a six-month-old weanling.

Jodie also scored a novice victory on Springaway, a Catherston Springsteen mare she is riding while owner Angela Denning recovers from injury.

"I'm taking Springaway out to give her experience," she said. "She was so much more grown-up this time."

Lauren Phillips (no relation) then scored a 73.42% advanced medium qualifier win with her seven-year-old mare Hot Chocolate. Lauren has come over from Jersey and is currently based with Jodie.

At **King's Sedgemoor**, Somerset (18 July), Jayne Chapman took both novices with her 17.1hh coloured Mars gelding, Carnival On Mars. The nine-year-old has been off since the autumn after damaging a suspensory ligament in the field.

"He's quite high-maintenance as he also needs twice-yearly treatment for periodontal disease," said Jayne, explaining that gaps in the gelding's teeth need flushing and filling. "It's been a long job with the injury."

Jayne, who gave up eventing after her third session of spinal surgery, now trains for dressage with Helen Griffiths.

"We've been working hard on his collection as he's a big and willowy type with very free movement," said Jayne. "I'd like to get cracking with medium now."



SOUTH-WEST: 'She genuinely loves it' – Lord Leatherdale mare Enjoy II lives up to her name to win at elementary and medium for Jodie Phillips

FIRST WIN

James

AN Irish hunter with an unhappy past scored an unexpected double novice win with his owner Ellie Wass, on the pair's affiliated debut (15 July).

Ellie, who runs Upton Pyne EC in Devon, used the two day tickets she and James received as unaffiliated champions at Bicton Arena last year to make their British Dressage (BD) debut at the venue.

Ellie took on James two years ago, as he kept bolting with his owner.

"He'd probably been mistreated in Ireland and was incredibly nervous," said Ellie. "He was scared of his own shadow but I knew that there was a really nice person underneath it. It has taken ages for him to trust me."

"I hunted him hard in the winter with the Taunton Vale and he also team chases. I'm tempted to do more dressage, but this weekend he won an unaffiliated one-day-event on his dressage score. He does everything – I'm a lucky girl."

EAST

Deluca makes perfect start

A couple of horses made winning debuts at **Brook Farm**, Essex (19 July), writes *Selene Scarsi*.

Penny Brooks enjoyed an ideal first competition with Deluca, a home-bred Dimaggio four-year-old, who took the open section of prelim 17 with 70.19%.

"I was delighted for my owners of 14 years, Brian and Irene Lewis, who own half of my horses," said Penny. "Deluca was a little quirky to start with so he went to boot camp with the Renwicks and their stable jockey Emily Mason did an amazing, positive job with him."

Also making their debut at the venue were Sophie Forbes and the eight-year-old Irish sport horse Tricky Johnie. They won both novices and posted the highest score of the day,

78.28% in the novice 22.

"He was on cue throughout," said Sophie. "His medium trot felt fantastic, scoring nines. I knew we had done a good test but as it was our first BD outing, I was shocked when I saw our score."

At **Broads EC**, Suffolk (17 July), Sasha Billham collected two prelim wins on her home-bred Apache Pieces, a five-year-old by the coloured KWPN Amour G out of maxi cob mare Jigsaw Pieces.

"I decided to breed 'Dino' as his mother started having lameness issues after coming to dressage late in her life," said Sasha. "I had only just started learning the joys of dressage, so it was a dream to affiliate."

"Broads is a lovely venue, with a helpful team," added Sasha, who trains with Liza McQuiston and Jade Holleman.



EAST: 'I was shocked when I saw our score' – Sophie Forbes and Tricky Johnie boast the day's highest score on their first affiliated outing – posting 78.28% at novice

SCOTLAND

Ebony lands a hat-trick

DAISY CROSS was on winning form at **Rockrose EC**, East Lothian (18 July), writes *Melanie Scott*.

She accounted for three prelim and novice classes with Ebony II, and rode Mr Tumnus to be a runner-up twice.

Daisy events Ebony at BE100 level, most recently winning the under-18 section at Warwick Hall.

One year after surgery to remove a tumour in his small intestine, Mr Tumnus has progressed well, also winning at Warwick Hall in the BE90 Pony Club class.

"A year ago he was on box rest after his operation at the Royal (Dick) Vet School," explained Daisy's mum Jo.

"They did an amazing job – Mr Tumnus is back on form and loving life."

Daisy trains with Diana Zajda and David Harland and will contest Pony Club inter-branch for the Strathearn branch. She



SCOTLAND: 20-year-old Soundtrack II, who qualified for the ridden veteran final at Olympia, picks up Area Festival qualification at medium for Laurie Carnie

will ride Ebony in the intermediate dressage and eventing sections and Mr Tumnus in showjumping.

Concentrating on ridden veteran showing means Laurie Carnie spends less time in the dressage arena, but at **The Cabin EC**, Aberdeenshire (18-19 July), she collected Petplan Area Festival medium qualification with her own Soundtrack II.

Laurie has owned the Western

Hope 20-year-old thoroughbred gelding for six years. They previously competed in lightweight hunter classes, before qualifying for the ridden veteran finals at Olympia two years ago.

"He loves going out and competing," said Laurie. "He's just started learning changes and he's very trainable."

At **Ugie Dressage**, Aberdeenshire (12 July), Suzanne

Stephenson headed two novices with Little Tiger II, and posted the day's highest score of 70.58%.

WALES & WEST

Shogun sets the target

MELANIE PHILLIPS and her home-bred gelding Ruxton Shogun made easy work of the novices at **Kings Equestrian**, Herefords (18 July), writes *Andrea Oakes*. They won both classes and scored just shy of 80% (79.65%) in the novice 22.

"He's finding his own strength," said Melanie of the five-year-old gelding. "He was growing so much, but he now feels ready to go."

Shogun and his sister Ruxton Showgirl – currently winning at elementary – are by Showmaker and out of the Don Primero mare Donna Shocolata.

"All of Shocolata's foals have been lovely to deal with," says Melanie. "She's now in-foal to Carl Hester's Olympic ride Uthopia, which is very exciting."

Vikki Swindell scored a prelim



WALES & WEST: Home-bred Showmaker five-year-old Ruxton Shogun grows into himself to claim two novices, with one plus-79% score under Melanie Phillips

qualifier win at **Burrows Court Farm**, Glos (15 July), with Temple Clover Belle, a mare she saw at the Goresbridge Sales in Ireland three years ago.

"I bought her as a recently backed five-year-old to sell on," said Vikki, who paid £1,200 for the horse she now describes as "worth her weight in gold". "She's so easy, a real 'get on and go' type. We also do riding club eventing and county-level small hunter classes – she's a star."

Sports therapist Katy Griffiths took the prelim 15 and shared honours in the prelim 19 at **Moor Farm**, Pembrokeshire (19 July), riding her Irish sport mare KS Panache. The pair have already enjoyed success in showjumping and working hunter classes.

"We've been competing in unaffiliated dressage for the past year, but joined BD in April," said Katy, who trains with Brendan Tegg.

NORTH

Cocky Cookie on best behaviour

EMMA RICHARDSON clocked up two wins and a second at **Epworth EC**, Lincs (19 July) on her own Cookie Rich and her friend Sally Rix's Toby, writes *Helen Scott*.

Emma, who was riding despite bashing her knee in a fall during a showjumping lesson the previous day, had been determined to compete.

'She went to buy a dining table, but spotted a lovely horse and came home with him, and not the table'

Emma Richardson

on Sally Rix's purchase of Toby

second, posting just under 70%.

"He's getting good scores at novice so will move up," Emma added. "I'm due to have a knee operation around the regionals,

"I'm eventing Cookie and he has started getting cocky in the dressage, so I wanted to get him out between the white boards with no jumping," said Emma, who bought the 11-year-old primarily to hunt. They won at novice and scored a close



NORTH: Cookie Rich finds his manners to triumph at novice with Emma Richardson

AGAINST THE ODDS

'It was 50/50 whether he'd ever come sound'

AS a five-year-old, Don Juan – who won the elementary 53 at Richmond EC, North Yorks (18 July) – was making waves in both dressage and young event horse classes.

But when a mystery lameness didn't resolve in 2013, owner-rider Elaine Wormwell discovered he'd shattered his pedal bone.

"The vets gave him a 50/50 chance of ever coming sound again," said Elaine.

"We then embarked on extended box rest and a rehab programme, but the inactivity triggered other problems. He became difficult to manage and I was really struggling."

In February Don Juan's problems became so overwhelming that Elaine nearly had him put to sleep.

"But then I remembered what a super horse he'd been before his injury and gave him one last chance," she said.

When Don Juan, now seven, finally came sound, Elaine asked her trainer Melissa Chapman to ride him to regain the horse's confidence.

"Since then he's exceeded my expectations," said Elaine. "I've qualified him at novice for the summers, so I entered the elementary to get a sheet for the Area Festival, thinking we might scrape a qualifying score – but we got 68%."



so he'll go to the Area Festival."

Emma's second ride, Toby, was having his first affiliated outing at prelim, and won with 68.54%.

"Sally went to buy a dining table in Cottesmore country, but thought she'd take in the meet. She spotted a lovely horse, and came home with him and not the table," said Emma.

Sue Snell piloted her own Foxboro Rock DJ to two medium victories.

The nine-year-old, by Woodlander Rockstar, has been consolidating his work, and this was his last outing before the

summer regionals.

"He's very tall and has taken time to find his strength, but he's really maturing and has a topline at last," said Sue, a freelance instructor, who has produced the horse since she bought him as a three-year-old.

SOUTH

Discovery breaks new ground

DUTCH DISCOVERY scored a career-best 74.32% and won both mediums at **Fairoak Grange**, Berks (18 July), for his owner-rider Rose Hugh-Smith, reports *Helen Triggs*.

The seven-year-old Tuschinski x Jazz gelding was bought in Holland eight months ago.

"He's as fiery as a Ferrari but so light in front that he's super to ride," said Rose. "I hope to train him up to grand prix myself."

Rose will be taking him to the summer regionals at Addington and the pair are now qualified for the winter regionals at medium and advanced medium.

Ashley Harrison's Holmside Valencio had two good elementary wins at **Widmer**, Bucks (14 July), on his return from injury. Ashley was on a quest to get BD sheets to enable her to



SOUTH: Holmside Valencio scores an elementary double under Ashley Harrison



NORTH-WEST: Sarah Horrocks' ex-show horse Bowland Heartbreaker wins at novice

compete in the Home International. The 11-year-old coloured warmblood was originally bought to show and has been to Horse of the Year Show (HOYS) and was placed at the Royal International in 2012.

"I bought him to get back into riding after having my children," said Ashley. "Dressage competitions fit in well as I finish in time for the school run."

At Windmill Farm, Bucks (18 July), Betsy Escher's Edel Blume, ridden by Lindsay White, scored over 75% in novice 23 on her UK debut.

The five-year-old by Escudo is out of a part-quarter horse mare and came from the US with her owner last autumn.

"I knew she was nice but I wasn't expecting that mark," said Lindsay, who started riding her in March. "There's more to come as the test had one or two wobbly baby bits."

SOUTH-EAST Donnerossi steps up in style

EMMA JAMIESON has moved on from earning scores as high as 80% at prelim with Donnerossi, and is now working her way up the ladder at novice, writes Celia Cadwallader.

At Cobham Manor, Kent (13 July), she piloted the 18.1hh Don Larino x Roulette eight-year-old to novice wins with 71.85% and 70.64%.

Emma, 18, is riding "Donald" for owner Nicky Barrett.

"Donald was very supple and balanced and did everything I

asked, but I need to plan further ahead for transitions as he is such a big horse," said Emma.

"I swapped to dressage at the beginning of the year. I used to produce other people's horses for showjumping to pay for those I had at DIY livery. Then at the end of last year the Barretts offered me a job as a working pupil at their yard."

Izzy Chaplin has based 15-year-old Tajdora with Henry Boswell in Warwickshire while she has been

studying accountancy at Nottingham University. She visited Patchesham, Surrey (15 July), to win both the medium and advanced medium freestyle classes with 72.5% and 70.66%.

"I rode to Narnia music in the medium," said Izzy. "She moves laterally easily so I showcase that and do simple canter changes on the centre line and extended canter into counter canter."

"For the advanced medium I keep the trot and walk work the

same and ride to atmospheric music with a strong beat, which shows off her paces. I also include flying changes from the counter canter. She likes to dance to music and lights up."

NORTH-WEST Heartbreaker charms the judges

SARAH HORROCKS and her British-bred Bowland Heartbreaker won the restricted section of the novice qualifier at Myerscough, Lancs (15 July), on 73.62%, writes Jo Prestwich.

Sarah bought the 11-year-old Versace Van De Ruitersshove x Darcy Dancer gelding from Bowland Stud.

"I went with my sister, who was looking for a foal, and ended up buying a yearling," said Sarah. "He was black with four white socks then – he's grey now – and when I saw him move I decided I had to have him."

The horse had a successful career as a show hunter, qualifying for HOYS, before turning to dressage.

Barbara Ainsworth won the medium qualifier with her Concorde gelding Zoncorde M. The 10-year-old was originally bought to event, competing successfully up to BE100 level before turning to dressage.

"I damaged the discs in my back so I decided to move over to dressage," explained Barbara, who trains with Joanna Jackson. "We're going out at advanced medium next and ultimately I'd like to think we'll go advanced."



SOUTH-EAST: Izzy Chaplin's Tajdora heads medium and advanced medium freestyles

Another eventer was on top form at **South View Arena**, Cheshire (15 July) – Sarah Caplan won both prelims with her home-bred Alfonso Eduardo.

The six-year-old is by the showjumping stallion Utah Van Erpekom out of Sarah's Furisto mare Fantail, who competed successfully at novice eventing.

"Sadly I think I'm going to sell him as dressage and showjumping are his forte and I'm an eventer through and through," said Sarah, who is managing director of Equestrian Escapes riding holidays.

CENTRAL Casper leads family success

MOTHER-and-daughter duo Judith Johnson and Clare Bennett enjoyed a successful weekend at **Moreton Morrell EC**, Warks (18-19 July), reports **Stephanie Bateman**.

Judith rode the eight-year-old Dayano gelding Casper VIII to

victory in the medium freestyle with 72.33%, and Clare won the elementary freestyle with eight-year-old BKS Brandini, who is by Hilken's Black Delight.

Clare, 15, has owned "Otto" for 16 months and this was their first elementary freestyle test.

"They've just applied to go to the viewing day for potential pony squad riders," said Judith, who is a GP and British Eventing medic. "It was also my first medium freestyle."

Judith bought Casper as a just-backed four-year-old and trains with Serena Pincus.

"I'd like to train him up to advanced medium, and then Clare will probably have him to do young riders with. It's lovely sharing a hobby with my daughter."

Sara Lucas scored a medium double riding 13-year-old HRS Beechfield De Lux at **Vale View EC**, Leics (15 July).

Sara bought the ex-eventer by Lux Z two years ago.

"He was evented to one-star by Tommy Howe, but he decided to



CENTRAL: HRS Beechfield De Lux, by Lux Z, tops two mediums under Sara Lucas

sell him, and as he'd always done well in the dressage phase, I bought him to do pure dressage," said Sara.

"My business partner Antonia Brown owned him as a four-year-old and sold him to the Howes, so

we're keeping him in the family."

Laura Grantham scored plus-70% in prelim 17 and 68.28% in novice 22 riding Springfield Bollinger at **Quainton Stud**, Bucks (15 July), heading both classes. **H&H**

RESULTS

BICTON COLLEGE

Devon, 19-20 July

Prelim 12 rest (C Beard). – 1, Tieve Toreador (G Mawson) 71.2; 2, Pricelless (A Cole) 69.8; 3, Southills Spook (N Stokes) 65.6. **prelim 14Q.** – 1, Quillo Sym (J Headford) 62.29. **rest.** – 1, Tieve Toreador 74.38; 2, Bayswater (S Sharp) 71.88; 3, Southills Spook 71.25. **nov 24 (S Olsson Bedding).** – 1, Be Brief (B Churchill) 71.15; 2, Wonderful II (D Hanner) 70.57; 3, Milo XII (L Kendell) 63.46. **rest.** – 1, Saltmarsh Dragon (T Bashford) 67.1; 2, Lusso (R Packer) 66.54; 3, Czarina R (S Escrig) 63.65. **nov 34Q.** – 1, Be Brief 72.9; 2, Milo XII 66.45; 3, Wonderful II 66.04. **rest.** – 1, Czarina R 67.08; 2, Lusso 65.83; 3, Stambrook Masterful (A Mackergie) 64.37. **elem 40 (J Green).** – 1, Eximious (A Brooker) 70.8; 2, Fifty Shades Of Bay (A Farleigh) 70.32; 3, Red Smiley (A Robinson-Barr) 66.93. **rest.** – 1, In Tune (C Wait) 67.74. **elem 53Q.** – 1, Fifty Shades Of Bay 71.76; 2, Red Smiley 67.5; 3, Hallmark DS (D Mills) 66.47. **rest.** – 1, In Tune 67.64. **med 61 rest (McGinley).** – 1, Atinado (Z Paramore) 70.86; 2, Aylesland Apprentice Boy (S Small) 63.27. **med 75Q.** – 1, Heatherways Prince Of Thunder (C Howick) 67.97; 2, Heatherways Donnersonata (R Batson) 67.7. **rest.** – 1, Atinado 68.9; 2, Heatherways Nemesis (D Arranz) 66.21. **adv med 98Q.** – 1, Amun-Ra (A Farleigh) 70.92; 2, Heatherways Prince Of Thunder 67.1; 3, De Winter (D Glennon) 63.94. **rest.** – 1, Heatherways Donnersonata 68.42. **adv 100 rest.** – 1, Sydestepper (G Grant) 69.68. **PSG.** – 1, Amun-Ra 67.89; 2, Diego Valesquez (D Mills) 67.89; 3, De Winter 64.07.

BURROWS COURT FARM

Glos, 15 July

Prelim 14Q (S Harcombe). – 1, Summer At Kinnard (M Hanson) 66.46; 2, Lily The Pink (A Naylor) 59.79. **rest.** – 1, Rufus Rocks (S Gardiner) 66.46; 2, Pandoras Elpis (L Lazaro-Keen) 66.04; 3, Jock III (A Johnson) 65.21. **prelim 17Q (T Mirylees).** – 1, Summer At Kinnard 65.77; 2, Rebel E (B Box) 63.27. **rest.** – 1, Temple Clover Belle (F Swindell) 72.3; 2, Denmoor Roxborough (J Armitage) 69.23; 3, Jock III 68.46. **nov 28 (S Harcombe).** – 1, Woodlander Chakka Khan (L Williams) 73.54; 2, Calletto B Van Het Juxschot (T Burrow) 72.5; 3, Orlando Mill (H Norris) 70. **rest.** – 1, Denmoor Roxborough 69.17; 2, Laurozel Lucky Moonmist (L Cook) 68.75; 3, A Perfect Storm (V Sempke) 66.88. **nov 39Q (T Mirylees).** – 1, Empire Of The Sun (S Cox) 73.28; 2, Woodlander Chakka Khan 70.69; 3, Grey Gerry (B Box) 68.27. **rest.** – 1,

Lacken Masimp (K Byam-Cook) 65.34; 2, A Perfect Storm 62.76; 3, A Touch Of Grannex (G Atkins) 62.59. **elem 44 (J Harris).** – 1, Orlando Mill (H Norris) 71.6; 2, Porscha (A Heimsen) 68.2. **rest.** – 1, Gorgeous (D Smith) 60.8. **elem 59Q.** – 1, Empire Of The Sun 68.91; 2, Raz Raz Jazz (S Ford) & Rosenfee (P Jaggs) 66.56. **rest.** – 1, Emirulus (A Wiggall) 65.94; 2, Cappuccino (W Fielden) 64.06; 3, A Touch Of Grannex (G Atkins) 58.12. **med 75Q rest.** – 1, Chateau (A Fernyhough) 68.78. **adv med 98Q.** – 1, Really Relevant (M Morris) 65.39. **PYO.** – 1, Dr Jekyll (T Koncher) 70.42. **adv.**

THE CABIN EC

Aberdeenshire, 18-19 July

Prelim 13Q rest (H Anderson). – 1, Brittias Vriend (C Smith) 73.96; 2, May May (K Forsyth) 69.17; 3, The Fortune Teller (S Fish) 68.54. **prelim 19Q rest (W Halkett).** – 1, Brittias Vriend 72.5; 2, May May 65.45; 3, FP Diamond Joker (F Quennell) 63.64. **nov 27 (H Anderson).** – 1, Figaro M (M Nover) 74.82; 2, Cullenbay Aurora (E Taylor) 70. **rest.** – 1, Brittias Vriend 70.7; 2, Bryncind Samuel (H Gunnyon) 63.93. **elem 42 (A Fellows).** – 1, Oakley (E Taylor) 63.91. **rest.** – 1, Stormaway (K Jappy) 63.91; 2, Quilys V Thorneslee Z (Z Fuller) 59.84; 3, Zenos (K Wilson) 57.03. **elem 53Q (W Halkett).** – 1, Spielbanker (S Lindop) 74.12. **rest.** – 1, Zenos 66.32; 2, Bidwell Destiny (C Hopkins) 61.18. **med 63 rest (A Fellows).** – 1, Soundtrack II (L Carnie) 53.97. **med 75Q rest (A Fellows).** – 1, Dommroschen (A Cowan) 66.35; 2, Sandros Fire (E Humble) 59.73; 3, Soundtrack II 56.76. **adv med 94 (H Brown).** – 1, Cocktail M (M Niven) 66.91; 2, Superstar (V Gladwyn) 66.03. **rest.** – 1, Colourville Jacob's Puzzle (E Taylor) 60.59. **adv med 98Q.** – 1, Sandhaven (S Lindop) 72.11; 2, Cocktail M 66.32; 3, Superstar 57.89. **rest.** – 1, Fortria Express (R Stephen) 65.13. **PYO.** – 1, Ocho Gadio (L Grant) 64.86. **PSG.** – 1, Rendezvous (C Moore) 73.03; 2, Ridinghill Everdon (F Maxwell) 62.24. **med 63 rest (H Brown).** – 1, Soundtrack II 66.21; 2, Atletico (K Winkle) 62.93; 3, Sandros Fire 59.83. **adv med 94 rest (H Brown).** – 1, Colourville Jacob's Puzzle 59.56. **med 75Q (H Brown).** – 1, Seramail (N Heale) 68.51; 2, Sabros Fire 67.43; 3, Soundtrack II 63.38. **GP.** – 1, Ridinghill Everdon 67.37; 2, Mouse (J Stephen) 63.95. **elem 42 rest (P Baker).** – 1, Dagen (C Thomas) 71.25. **elem 53Q rest (A Fellows).** – 1, Dagen 67.21; 2, Volatis Defiant (K Winkle) 63.68; 3, Cullenbay Aurora 63.24. **nov 27 rest (P Baker).** – 1, Atlantis Affair (M Munro) 67.32; 2, Bosman (S Duncan) 66.61; 3, Little Tiger II (S Stephenson) 66.61. **nov 39Q (V Gladwyn).** – 1, Cullenbay Aurora 65.52; 2, Volatis Defiant 65. **rest.** – 1, Atlantis Affair 65.77; 2, Royal

Riablo (S Duncan) 61.9; 3, Bosman 61.9. **prelim 13Q rest.** – 1, Jack Daniels IV 67.08; 2, Gwyllan Penny (J Morley) 65.42; 3, FP Diamond Joker 64.17. **prelim 19Q rest (A Fellows).** – 1, Celtic Beauty (A Anderson) 70.45; 2, Gwyllan Penny 66.59; 3, Jack Daniels 66.36.

COLLEGE OF WEST ANGLIA

Cambs, 18 July

Prelim 17Q (K Darlow). – 1, Packenham (E Kitteridge) 66.34. **rest.** – 1, Formax (K Condon) 51. **prelim 19Q.** – 1, Packenham 66.36. **rest.** – 1, Josey Wales (E Pepperell) 70.68; 2, Rumuz (L Leonard) 68.63. **nov 23.** – 1, Kirkash Shady Lady (S Wright) 63.51. **rest.** – 1, Autumn Sky II (V Jones) 68.14; 2, Josey Wales 68.14; 3, Burlington Bertie (EJ Raggett) 65.37. **nov 38Q.** – 1, Kirkash Shady Lady 59.67. **rest.** – 1, Autumn Sky II 71.77; 2, Burlington Bertie 68.87; 3, Ballyroe Rose (S Harwood) 65.48. **elem 43 (K Ratcliffe).** – 1, Donnerson (A Edwards-Sutton) 71.89. **rest.** – 1, Gerda's Delight (K Nash) 63.44; 2, Jez (S Wright) 59.31. **elem 53Q.** – 1, Ehrenstoltz (K Brace) 72.5; 2, Donnerson 70.73; 3, Orlando's Lord Phoenix (E Forge) 63.23. **rest.** – 1, Gerda's Delight 65. **med 69.** – 1, Nilton Tobago (S Gibbs) 65.15. **rest.** – 1, Bindro T (E Little) 71.06; 2, Quite Frankley Fronk (S Dunkerley) 62.12. **med 75Q.** – 1, Nilton Tobago 60.94. **adv med 85.** – 1, Royal Whiskers (S Dunkerley) 57.5. **rest.** – 1, Elroon (V Gilbey) 63.23. **adv med 98Q.** – 1, Royal Whiskers 58.02. **rest.** – 1, Elroon 62.76. **PYO FEL.** – 1, HCl Colorado (G Kemp-Russell) 65.52; 2, Flammengold (K Holder-Vale) 60.13.

QUAINTON STUD

Bucks, 15 July

Prelim 17Q rest (P Connelly). – 1, Springfield Bollinger (L Grantham) 70.19; 2, Ayrton Senna (V Smith) 64.23; 3, Darcys Law (S Lockyer) 62.69. **nov 22.** – 1, Don Destiny (B Edwards) 62.76; 2, Matilda's Shadow (J Payne) 61.03. **rest.** – 1, Springfield Bollinger 68.28; 2, Escapology (S Marshall) 64.83; 3, Blue Diamond II (M Tamkin) 64.66. **nov 37Q (L Waller).** – 1, Miss Sandro (A Dane) 69.29; 2, Matilda's Shadow 65.36. **rest.** – 1, Escapology 62.14. **elem 45.** – 1, Bolke VD Zonnebloem (R Clark) 63.28. **rest.** – 1, Dayrells Pete (J Unsworth) 67.93. **elem 59Q rest (J Harris).** – 1, Miss Sandro 66.09; 2, Show Dancer (M Whippley) 59.69. **med 61 rest (J Firmston-Williams).** – 1, Windfall (J Payne) 63.79. **rest.** – 1, Show Dancer 66.5; 2, Kokkedals Fabio (V Smith) 59.83. **med 75Q.** – 1, Windfall 62.03. **rest.** – 1, Whitewood Starburst (R Slough) 69.59. **adv med 98Q.** – 1, Zelanza (R Clark) 68.82; 2, Dora (T Graham) 68.29. **PYO adv.** – 1, Lord Nelson IV (J Wade) PSG 62.63.

ROCKROSE EC

East Lothian, 18-19 July

Prelim 7 rest (A Pullen). – 1, Ebony II (D Cross) 69.25; 2, Mr Tummus (D Cross) 68; 3, Top Notch (A Montgomery) 67.25. **prelim 17 rest (A Pullen).** – 1, Top Notch 70.38; 2, Flora Of Caldside (C Cathro) 70.19; 3, Hollis Rainbow (L Hutton) 69.91. **nov 24 rest (R Kirkham).** – 1, Ebony II 65.58; 2, Mr Tummus 64.81; 3, Touch Of Clover (L Samuel) 63.85. **nov 39 (A Mastin Moore).** – 1, Meikle Rustler (G Brown) 67.41; 2, Cantos (J Douglas Miller) 58.45. **rest.** – 1, Ebony II 67.41; 2, Beez Neex (W Johnson) 58.45. **elem 59.** – 1, Meikle Rustler 67.97. **rest.** – 1, Cordici K (S Leckie) 69.22; 2, Dare To Dream (E Haigh) 63.91. **med 75.** – 1, Vriend (D Christie) 65.27; 2, Gracioso L (F Peto) 62.97; 3, Boulabea Foxey Lady (G Brown) 60.14. **rest.** – 1, Upsardie (K Dewar) 67.7; 2, Be A Sport (S Smith) 59.32. **adv med 98.** – 1, Gracioso L 59.87. **PSG.** – 1, Adventure (C Leckie) 66.97. **inter 1.** – 1, Adventure 69.61.

WINDMILL FARM

Bucks, 18 July

Nov 23 (L Feivez). – 1, Edel Blume (L White) 75.18; 2, Lynwood Formula (C Tristram) 68.88; 3, WSF Sinderellow (A Perry) 67.03. **rest.** – 1, Dangermouse (A Pugh) 67.03; 2, Tribe (C Curran) 65.18; 3, Temple Bryan Jewel (J Turner) 63.9. **nov 39Q.** – 1, Wfd Loboutin (A Elliot) 72.24; 2, WDF Cinderellow 68.27; 3, Country Top Spec (D Fleming) 65. **rest.** – 1, Handsome Harvey (G Peckham) 72.24; 2, Dangermouse 68.79; 3, Tribe 67.58. **nov FSM Q.** – 1, Calibras Monty (C Tristram) 71.94; 2, Lynwood Formula 71.66; 3, Country Top Spec 68.33. **rest.** – 1, Bounty (M McBride) 70.27; 2, Warrengate Irish Affair (E Deakin) 66.94; 3, Sherock (P Smith) 69.44. **elem 45 (P Bushell).** – 1, Wfd Loboutin 73.44; 2, Hermes Anubis (H Triggs) 62.58. **rest.** – 1, Havanna II (A de Soer) 67.93; 2, Handsome Harvey (G Peckham) 66.55; 3, Neo Sprout (J Weight) 65.17. **elem 59Q.** – 1, Dante X (J Wicks) 67.34; 2, Bonjour Appel (N Johnson) 66.56; 3, Don Lagan (C Rowell) 63.9. **rest.** – 1, Foreign Affair (M Roberts) 68.22. **elem FSM Q.** – 1, Ro Coco (C Abel) 79.6; 2, Dante X 71.34; 3, Rollo II (K Eves) 67.69. **rest.** – 1, Donnerson (J Heinrich) 66.53; 2, Valina (B Earland) 58.46. **med 69.** – 1, Elvis (L White) 68.48. **rest.** – 1, Bonjour Appel 62.87. **med 75Q.** – 1, Wajana (L Dance) 66.08. **rest.** – 1, Rollo II 66.08; 2, Rouletta (J Carlin) 65.13. **PSG Q.** – 1, Mandibango (C Stansfield) 69.6; 2, Artoeska (K Crago) 64.86; 3, Greys Rhapody (S Hawkins) 63.65.



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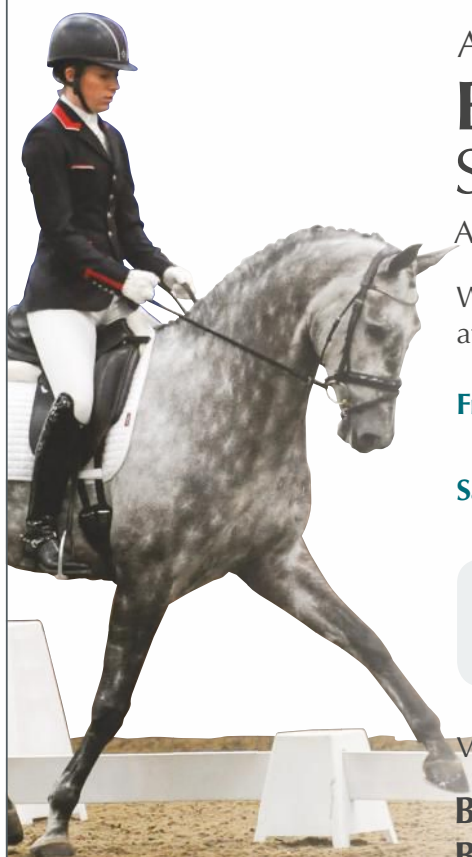
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Calon Lan is pure gold



Ceulan Calon Lan impresses with his action to stand in-hand champion, as well as becoming the first palomino stallion in 111 years to claim the Captain Howson trophy as overall section A champion

Royal Welsh Show, Builth Wells

20–23 July

By Owen Griffiths

CEULAN CALON LAN proved he is a golden boy in more ways than one, when the palomino left Royal Welsh Show with a handful of titles, including a ticket to the Cuddy final.

Horse entries totalled 3,176, with 2,184 in-hand exhibits, and Jennie Loriston-Clarke selected Ceulan Calon Lan as her in-hand champion.

The seven-year-old Welsh mountain pony, who is owned by newlyweds Rhyddian and Bethan

Donati (see box, above right), also stood reserve supreme of show – behind Michael Howell's champion driving exhibit Gwenllan Gwilym – the judges applauding his natural, unshod action.

Judge Mike Daley, who awarded Calon Lan the in-hand palomino championship, said: "His action is up and beyond his age – he really is exciting to watch."

Calon Lan, who is out of Ceulan Cariad – herself a double winner here – and by Serena Crump's Wernherris Caramel, also claimed the junior stallion and male championship en route to the Captain Howson trophy for overall section A champion. He is

the only palomino stallion to take this trophy in 111 years.

Gwenllan Gwilym, who had been transported all the way from Essex, gave an exciting, extravagant show to receive the nod from supreme horse judge Lord Daresbury. The grey Welsh section C was a spectacle, his bloodlines stemming from the Synod Welsh mountain pony line on his dam's side.

Section A reserve went to Herefordshire-based Erica Summerfield's barren mare Menai Seren Wen, who was purchased for £4,200 as a foal from the 2003 Brightwells High-Flyer sale.

The youngstock title was

claimed by Catherine Owen's Crumpwell Blue Ruby from Whitland, while the section A sire ratings went to Cwmhendy Buster.

Len and Ann Bigley's eight-year-old grey mare Llanarth Delilah, winner of the Cuddy qualifier here in 2012, stood reserve section B behind the Hoeke brothers' Paddock Marquis (see box, p70).

Youngstock and reserve male title went to the palomino three-year-old colt Janpete Del Boy, a full brother to Janpete Tom Thumb, who achieved exactly the same here last year. Both are owned by Manchester's Janet Mansfield and shown



Edited by
Aimi Clark

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Email: aimi.clark@timeinc.com



I OWE IT TO...

A threat to my marriage

WHEN Ceulan Calon Lan stood reserve for the HOYS Cuddy qualifier at Royal Cornwall Show in 2011, Rhydian Donati, an electrician, and his then girlfriend Bethan (née Hooper) were offered a large figure for him.

However, when Rhydian telephoned breeder Dr Wynne Davies to ask for advice, Bethan shouted: "If you sell him the wedding is off".

Rhydian and Bethan are now married and keep Calon Lan at their Milwas Stud.

"Calon Lan was sold as a foal and much cheaper than he would have been to anyone else in order to keep him in the area," said Wynne.

Rhydian's interest in Welsh ponies started at just 12 years old when he started visiting Wynne's Ceulan stud and worked there for 25 years.



Michael Howell's driving champion Gwenllan Gwilym powers to supreme honours



Nicole Bowen pilots Helsington Material Girl to the supreme ridden title

by her daughter, Steph.

Heniarth Wood-Wind, owned by Richard Miller and Meirion Davies, topped the section B sire ratings.

Material Girl triumphs

LEO BOWEN'S 12-year-old Helsington Material Girl, ridden by Nicole Bowen, was crowned the supreme ridden exhibit of 2015 after heading the show hunter pony class. The chestnut mare was supreme horse here in 2012.

Ridden cob champion for the fifth successive year and reserve supreme ridden horse was Malcolm Dixon's Chinwagg Finn under judge Helen Hillard.

"He's a saint – you could put your granny on him," said

Malcolm of the 13-year-old, who was purchased as a foal from a local dealer in Caerphilly. Malcolm used to visit regularly for a chinwag, hence the horse's name.

"I may retire him if he qualifies for Horse of the Year Show [HOYS] this year," added Malcolm.

Welsh cob judge Rob Robinson awarded the youngstock, female championship and the 107-year-old Prince of Wales Cup to a bay three-year-old filly, Perthog Gwenan Mai, who was one of the few to remain alert in the scorching hot weather. She is home-bred by Powys-based farrier Dorian Lloyd and his wife Michelle, whose seven-year-old bay stallion Haightmoor Orient



Malcolm Dixon's Chinwagg Finn tops the ridden cobs for the fifth year in a row

Express stood male champion the following day.

"At 5:30am there was hesitation whether to bring the stallion after the filly's success yesterday," said Michelle.

The last time the same owner claimed the male and female championship was in 1954, when Jack Lloyd's stallion Meiarth King Flyer and mare Meiarth Welsh Maid triumphed.

Section C judge Jeremy Davis awarded the Chetwynd trophy to Peter and Ann Jones' previously unshown 11-year-old bay

broodmare Menai Lady Catkin, who gave an energetic performance. Male champion and reserve went to John Gray and sons' Coathamdene Just Dennis, whose brother, Coathamdene Just Dylan, was last year's HOYS overall champion of the native workers.

Youngstock and reserve male champion was Jack Gray's black three-year-old colt Windsorside Jack The Lad, while Blaencila Bonheddwr topped the section C sire ratings.

Welsh winners

THE HOYS ridden M&Ms, under Kevin Walker and Janet Bushell, saw Peter and Ann Jones' novice gelding Menai Cosmopolitan net the section D title and stand champion.

Reserve was Christine Williams' Northlight Coppellia, who headed the section B's, while India Latter's ever-faithful Powys Sprite secured the section A class for the third year running.

Mike King's Coedfedw Sandstorm, better known for his harness prowess having qualified for the HOYS driving class last year at the Royal Highland, topped the section Cs.

Dawn Weston's Oathill Take The Biscuit – the 2011 Topspec Show Hunter of the Year Champion at the NEC – secured the middleweight title with Jess Cronk in the saddle en route to champion hunter under judges Janet Cope and Helen Hillard.

Heather Morley's Menai

Radium, ridden by Aimee Devane, topped the section C ridden class. This is the seventh Menai-bred pony to win the award.

Conformation judge Roger Davies commented: "I look for nice hindquarters to power off." Ride judge Gemma Rees added that she likes mounts to be "forward going and light in the hands".

Welsh part-bred judge Tom Barron awarded champion to Love Affair, a bay yearling filly owned by Billy and Joanne Moran and shown by Jerome Harforth. Love Affair also took the riding pony breeding title, all this at just her second outing.

Reserve Welsh part-bred went to Kathy Hall's three-year-old Penstrumbly Our Latif, also gaining the champion show hunter pony breeding title.

"She's an orphan and was hand-reared from three days old," said Kathy.

Mares rule

CLAIRE EVANS' black mare Yswain Ameranthus, by Sydenham Solomon, carried herself well throughout and clinched the Welsh cob ridden championship under judges Danielle Everitt and Vicky Smith.

Reserve was Wrexham-based Ashley Peers' palomino stallion Pantydwr Mister Nice Guy.

Lancashire-based Lorraine Thomas's son, Terry Clynes, presented Harrowclough Evie beautifully to take the

in-hand coloured class and reserve ridden coloured title.

"I spotted her coming down the aisle as a yearling at the Brightwells sale and I told Terry I had to buy her," said Lorraine.

Reserve in-hand went to Sue Wilkinson's tobiano yearling filly Drenrow Cinderella, who had only been brought in from the field the day before.

With 123 entries, the Shetland classes were stronger than ever. Eiger Hugo, a black 10-year-old miniature bred and owned by Frank Hodder from Yeovil, stood champion. **H&H**

TALKING POINTS

'I'm not supposed to be here'

PAUL JARRETT made an unexpected showing debut and bagged the hunter breeding championship with the two-year-old home-bred filly Hidden Agenda. Co-owner Delvin Evans was unable to show and usual handler Jack Cochrane could not due to an association with the judge in the past five years.

"You don't realise what goes on in the ring," said Paul. "Anne Bassett asked me if Jack would be sacked. I had sweat pouring down my face and told her his salary will be doubled."

Record breaker

CEULAN CALON LAN'S breeder Dr Wynne Davies, 83, leapt into the record books as the oldest person to trot up a horse in this main ring. Wynne reported Royal Welsh show for *Horse & Hound* for more than 50 years, and launched his 13th book, an autobiography, at the show.

Epic journey pays off

ROBERT and Michel Hoeke, brothers from Holland, endured an 18-hour one-way journey. It proved worthwhile, though, when Hoekhorst Cinderella took the reserve section A youngstock title and Paddock Marquis, ridden by Fiona Leadbitter, stood section B male and overall champion, plus reserve in the Cuddy.

Youthful winnings

FIFTEEN-year-old Huw Williams, from Waunfawr, Caernarfon, won the young handler class showing his grandfather's home-bred yearling section B Treflan Buddug. Huw took home an £80 cash prize.



Claire Evans' mare Yswain Ameranthus, by Sydenham Solomon, comes out on top in the Welsh cob ridden championship

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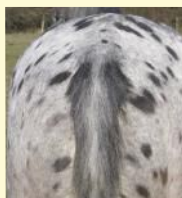
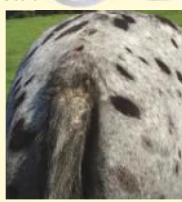
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Field Aston Royal Fanfare, the first home-bred to be shown under saddle for Julie Templeton and Fiona Wallace, takes her 128cm class and the tricolour – 'She's a real diva, but a smiley pony'



Fanfare makes the right noise

The Showing Register Summer Gala Onley EC, Warks

18-19 July

By Margaret Shaw

FIELD ASTON ROYAL FANFARE (Poppy) claimed an emotional open show pony championship title for producers Julie Templeton and Fiona Wallace.

On only her second outing in open company, the charming four-year-old home-bred by Cusop Dimension out of Rhos Elise booked her return ticket to Horse of the Year Show (HOYS) – her first under saddle – when heading her 128cm class en route to the tricolour.

"Poppy is a real diva, but a smiley pony who combines lovely manners with great movement

and self-carriage," said Julie, whose Rhos Elise bred five foals, but three died in freak field and stable accidents. "Poppy is extra special as she is our first home-bred to be shown under saddle."

Poppy was a Cuddy in-hand finalist at HOYS in October. She is unbeaten as a novice so far this term.

However, rider Abbie Farmer's day didn't get off to the greatest of starts when she was unseated due to Poppy spooking during a pre-class spin around Onley's huge show field.

"We were having a lovely canter and disturbed a flock of birds. Poppy went one way and I went the other," said Abbie. "We hoped it was a good omen, and it was."

Abbie also topped an enormous HOYS part-bred line-up with

Team Templeton's Fidra Acacia. A set show included a canter serpentine, walk-canter transition and extension.

Julie bought the six-year-old bay mare three years ago and gave her a couple of educational outings in her debut season last year.

"She needed plenty of time to mature and the wait has been well worthwhile," said Julie of Fidra Acacia, who is also Birmingham-bound as a show pony after winning at Cheshire County.

Nighthawk swoops

BY winning their large intermediate class, Emily Coulstock and DP UK Nighthawk booked their return ticket to HOYS before going on to take the intermediate tricolour.

Emily enjoyed a successful

first season last year with her Mooiman seven-year-old, whom she bought after a tip-off from Kath and Ailsa Vines.

They are Hickstead-bound for the first time for the small riding horse and intermediate finals.

"I will be starting work in London shortly, but I made sure I can have the day off for the Royal International," said Emily, a recent classic literature graduate from Birmingham University.

There were huge entries in the mini mountain and moorland (M&M) and show pony sections, and booking yet another ticket to HOYS was Henrietta Barton's winning lead-rein show pony West Leake Sophistication.

Home-bred by Orielton Aristocrat out of West Leake Sensation, this mare belied her 16 years of age and was booking her



Emily Coulstock books her return ticket to HOYS on DP UK Nighthawk, heading the large intermediates and taking the tricolour

TSR SUMMER GALA

said Vicky.

Brogan Taverner made the most of her catch ride on Gone With The Wind to head the small hunter class before claiming the supreme ridden title on the first day.

Owner Rosie Try normally rides the horse in intermediate classes, but decided to give him a whirl in the small hunter here and he earned a HOYS ticket.

"I put a 'wanted ad' on Facebook and bought him from Rachael Helliwell three months ago, and we have had some good [intermediate] results," said Rosie, who was novice champion with her six-year-old at the British Show Pony Society winter championships.

Mill House Stud took another ticket to the Cuddy supreme when Monica Janson's hack breeding champion Rumour Has It topped a line-up of 15 champions for Steve Pitt.

Bred by Jackie Thompson, this quality three-year-old is by Dolphin Supreme out of Pussy Galore.

A winner at the National Pony Society championships as a yearling, Rumour Has It was given time to mature last season, and he recently claimed the hack breeding title at Devon County. **H&H**

I OWE IT TO...

My mum, Julie Barton

AFTER a five-year absence on maternal duties, Rachael Barton's return to the showing scene resulted in clinching the Fotografer supreme M&M championship on Chilham Pursuit (Piglet).

"With Rachael's son Leo now five, I thought he would be the ideal pony to get Rachael back in the saddle and start showing again," said Julie, who got Piglet on loan from owner Michelle Larkin at Christmas.

The seven-year-old son of the recently deceased Castle Comet went through the card as, after heading his (HOYS) Connemara and New Forest line-up, he then claimed the section tricolour before standing overall supreme.

"My last ride at HOYS was on the Dartmoor Moortown Honeyman in 2007, so qualifying today is just the ticket," said Rachael.

place at HOYS for the 12th time.

With new jockey Scarlet Ludlow, West Leake Sophistication took reserve mini show pony title before standing Easy Chip mini supreme.

Taking the mini show pony tricolour were the first ridden winners Ella Georgakis and Barkway Precocious, who has a great record at Birmingham.

Over the past three years the Becksides Little Toff 11-year-old has taken the mini twice, and Ella was runner-up in the first ridden final with him last October.

The pair added more accolades here when going on to stand reserve mini and overall supreme ridden champions.

Amelia Hayes claimed the junior M&M championship riding Birkinbrook Juliet.

The eight-year-old section B mare was produced by Sam Roberts last year, but Amelia is riding her from home this season and has qualified the daughter of Heaton Romeo for the junior championship at the Royal International (RIHS).

"She has taught me so much and is the perfect pony to have fun with," said Amelia.

All for one

MAINTAINING their unbeaten record were Vicky Hesford and Randalstown Musketeer, who racked up their sixth win in as many outings.

The Claire Twiston-Davies-owned heavyweight cob also had four championships and one reserve to his credit, and he duly clinched another tricolour here.

Vicky acted on a tip-off from her brother-in-law Robert Walker when he was looking at Randalstown Rolex in Ireland last October.

"Robert sent me a telephone video clip, I showed it to Claire and she gave me the okay to go and try him.

"He is an absolute joy to ride but a nightmare to keep clean,"

ONE TO WATCH

Showlands Mister Bojangles

THE Chinook Limelight four-year-old, Showlands Mister Bojangles, took the reserve show pony title on only his second outing. He won his novice class at Devon County and stepped up to head a large 148cm class here for Ellis Taverner-Burns, who was having her first sit on him.

"He's a real showman who seems to love the job and he coped very well today in a big class," said producer Cathy Hughes-Jones.



Rumour Has It tops a Cuddy line-up of 15 for Monica Janson



Marigold blossoms all day long

Scottish Horse Show,
Royal Highland
Showground, Edinburgh

21 July

By Melanie Scott

A charming mountain and moorland pony went through the card to lift the overall ridden supreme at the Scottish Horse Show.

Despite being in the first class of the day, Sadie Osborne's five-year-old Woodend Marigold still shone in the supreme judging some 11 hours later.

First she stood top of the 23-strong lead-rein class, ridden by Bill Reeves, before picking up the championship, then heading the mini supreme.

The ridden supreme had seven champions forward, after well-subscribed coloured classes pushed the timetable back. It was judged by Jack Cochrane, replacing Jane Cooper who needed to catch her flight home.

Woodend Marigold, a pretty palomino Welsh section A, belied her young age, still looking fresh despite the long day.

"I can't believe it – it makes leaving at 1am from Scarborough all worthwhile," said Sadie. "I got her as a three-year-old to play with. She was sixth at HOYS [Horse of the Year Show] last year."

Jack Cochrane said: "Both my

AGAINST THE ODDS

'He put his leg in a rabbit hole'

AMY MITTEN picked up two qualifiers, first heading the large hack and reserve with Cosmopolitan and then winning with Inschagem Of India in the intermediate show hunters.

Three years ago Amy broke her back at Cheshire Show when Cosmopolitan put his leg in a rabbit hole in the ring, resulting in Amy being off for more than a year.

This is Amy's last season riding Inschagem Of India as the 10-year-old Gem Of India mare will be put in-foal to Tiger Attack next year.



Sadie Osborne's Woodend Marigold stands overall ridden supreme – praised for 'outstanding conformation' – with Bill Reeves

champion and reserve were way out in front and were very true to type. The supreme has outstanding conformation, with very clean and correct limbs, and performed a faultless show."

Reserve supreme after producing a three-loop serpentine in canter with a halt to rein-back mid-loop was Bill Ireland's home-bred Dales stallion Kilmannan Black Magic. As his usual rider Richard Telford was busy showing in another ring, show farrier Stuart Ashton took over the ride, heading a strong mountain and moorland (M&M) section.

With a host of HOYS qualifiers across ridden sections, exhibitors welcomed the return of the one-day show on a showground with plenty of parking, working-in areas and decent-sized rings.

Tiger pounces again

FOR the second successive year the Cuddy in-hand qualifier went to the Dolphin Supreme three-year-old Tiger Attack,

shown by James Crockford.

"It was a fabulous mover, with good bone and a real showman. It stood out the moment it entered the ring," said judge Jane Cooper.

"He's backed and will be aimed at Burghley young event horse classes," said owner/breeder William Moran.

Reserve was Aileen Curle's four-year-old Highland stallion, Harris Of Mendick.

"He's been running out with mares and will come out under saddle next year," said Aileen.

Following on from a championship double in the same ring at the Royal Highland Show,



Corribus, a pure Irish draught, takes the champion cob title with Joyce Walker

Pictures by John Grossick

Martin Skelton headed the hunter and riding horse championships with Bond Street II and Corbally Lucky Boy.

Mugs Montgomerie's Dock Of The Grey was hunter reserve after taking the heavyweight qualifier with Scott McLellan.

"I hunt him with the Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire and my granddaughter takes him to Pony Club," said Mugs.

Breeder Sharon Howarth was on hand to watch the Whalton Above Suspicion offspring Carrhouse Beyond Suspicion stand runner-up in the large riding horse with Leigh Anne McNanee, and Carrhouse Billie Jean claim the intermediate title for Ailsa Vines.

Corribus is top cob

"HE is my horse of a lifetime," said Joyce Walker after winning the cob title with Corribus.

The pure Irish draught by Jack Of Diamonds topped the lightweight class, with the heavyweight winner Cointreau II, ridden by Kate Slattery, in

reserve. Cointreau is a former charge of Joyce's.

Jack Moore led the hacks with the Kalaharee eight-year-old former broodmare She's The One.

"She's qualified for the Royal International in hack, part-bred and intermediates," said Jack, who will shortly read equine studies at Chester University.

Olivia Maltby was thrilled to stand top of the riding ponies with Unlimited II after missing the spring season.

The Chiddock Time Limit seven-year-old mare won HOYS last year but producer Sarah Emmerson explained that the pony has been off after pulling a check ligament at the winter championships.

The stable also collected a further two tickets, heading the mini riding pony with the first ridden victor, Florence Wharton and Gullfields Wood Nymph, and the coloured champion Lockie, ridden by Lindie Stockdale. The latter is owned and bred by the Emmersons' neighbour Jackie Crofter-Harris. **H&H**

FIRST WIN

Jane Brisbane

CONSISTENCY paid dividends for Jane Brisbane after she headed the HOYS 153cm working hunter pony (WHP) qualifier and championship with Barana Moy Boy.

"I've previously been third and second at this show. I can't believe I've qualified," said Jane, who has ridden the My Hazy Cove 12-year-old for five years and competes for the West Perthshire Pony Club branch.

They also won the BE100 arena eventing league, qualifying for the final at this year's Blair Castle European Eventing Championships.



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Festival of Hunting,
Cambs

22 July

By Margaret Shaw

HILARY LE MOIGNAN'S winning lightweight Exposure claimed the open hunter championship for her husband Charles, after finally having a day out.

"As clients' horses take priority, he has had to wait his turn," explained Hilary.

The smart seven-year-old managed two outings last season and secured an early tricolour this term at BSPS Area 4B.

Charles said: "We've always loved his pattern as he is a real, old-fashioned lightweight."

"At home he thrives on variety and loves to jump and have fun, and he was ready for a trip out."

Georgina Wilkes and Mexican Summer (Mexie) secured a Horse of the Year Show (HOYS) ticket on their side-saddle debut when the pair stood top of a strong line-up in the Great Scott! ladies side-saddle horse qualifier.

Georgina normally campaigns Mexie in small hunter classes, and after standing second three times in HOYS qualifiers last year she was on a mission this time – and finally got her ticket at North of England.

"With that out of the way, I thought – as she is the most polite ride ever – I might as well have a go at the ladies class.

Exposure wins place in the limelight



Exposure takes the open hunter championship with Charles Le Moignan – 'He is a real, old-fashioned lightweight'



Mexican Summer and Georgina Wilkes triumph in the Great Scott! ladies side-saddle horse qualifier – 'This is the fourth time she's had the side-saddle on'

"This is the fourth time she has had the side-saddle on and I have only had two lessons with Dale Atkinson, the first one 10 years ago – and I probably won't do it again until HOYS," said Georgina, who bought her Ramexico seven-year-old from breeder Lynn Harris.

It was a great team effort to get horse and rider in the ring. Georgina borrowed Jeanetta La-Four's habit and Carol Gilbert-Scott's saddle, while Dale Atkinson fitted all the tack.

'I steal him for showing'

ANOTHER fresh face to claim a HOYS ticket here was Wendy King's winning small hunter Moy Lad.

Bought last year as a hunter for Wendy's husband Brian, who enjoyed 30 days with the Dunston Harriers over the winter, Moy Lad registered

his third win of the season.

Wendy said: "As he does lots of hacking and ticks over at home, I occasionally steal him for showing."

Abigail Shaw claimed the riding horse championship with Robert Sampson's large class winner Argentina, a home-bred five-year-old by John Whitaker's international jumping stallion Argento.

"The aim was to get her out and about to see the world before we start jumping her. This is only her second show and first open class," said Robert.

Eleanor Hirst and Fabiro Z took the working hunter pony championship after producing the only intermediate clear round.

The pair dropped just three marks to finish on a score of 97/100, after jumping what course-designer Lisa Kelly described as a "stonking round".

AGAINST THE ODDS

Winning despite heart-breaking diagnosis

IT proved an emotional win for Cathy Beaumont when her Turtle Island 12-year-old Dance Island (Ninja) topped a strong Tattersalls Retraining of Racehorses (RoR) class.

A day earlier Cathy had found out her mother Valerie had terminal cancer.

"Mum has supported me all the way through whatever I have wanted to do, and despite the news she insisted I came here today," said Cathy, who is travelling head girl for Ninja's former trainer Ben Case.

"When Ninja came out of racing two years ago his owner gave him to me.

"Ninja is a horse you can take anywhere. He fits in well with my job as I can put him down and pick him up at will," added Cathy, who also competes Ninja in riding horse classes.



While Eleanor's mother Katrina normally sources her workers in Ireland, this Franco nine-year-old was bought in a swap when Katie Lindsay-Brown, who rode Fabiro in coloured classes, acquired Eleanor's outgrown Pebbly Hornblower for her son Myles.

Eleanor said: "When we delivered Hornblower, Katie asked me to bring my hat so I could try Fabiro over some fences, and we soon saw how capable he was."

'A serious weapon'

RORY GILSENAN and Catherine Benson's EV Bios De Villa D'Este

again made light of the open working hunter horse track to win here for the second year running.

Although the 10-year-old has proved a very capable jumper, Rory had spent the odd sleepless night chasing a coveted HOYS ticket.

Rory said: "I've had a bad month making one mistake jumping, but we're back on song now. He loves nothing better than to go across country, and he is a serious weapon over a big hedge."

At the conclusion of four vast Coloured Horse and Pony Society (CHAPS) classes, the championship was pushed well into the evening, when Katie White claimed the tricolour with Lindsey Hillyard's Inkwell Little Mark.

James Van Praagh bred the Free Spirit five-year-old, who is out of the former show hack Optimist.

After a couple of outings last year, the attractive grey skewbald was put aside to mature, and this term he qualified for both the coloured and show hunter pony finals.

"He is a very laid-back ride who has the most fabulous hack canter," said Katie. **H&H**



EV Bios De Villa D'Este and Rory Gilsenan take the working hunter title

COMMENT

Stuart Hollings



'Spoon-feeding increases competitors' neediness'

FORGET *Big Brother* or *I'm a Celebrity... Get Me out of Here!* — a camera in most show secretaries' offices on show day would make better viewing. This would be even more intriguing when the marks sheets are viewed, if my recent North of England shows are any indication. I'm surprised, given the number of reality documentaries, that no one has produced a behind-the-scenes programme on running a horse show.

Being a show secretary seemed more straightforward 20 years ago — why has this changed? Could it be that the more show organisers spoon-feed competitors, in an effort to be "exhibitor-friendly", the more needy said competitors become?

Even when it clearly states in the schedule that entries are taken on the day, it appears that owners need reassurance that the secretary will not turn into a pantomime villain at the show and change his mind.

It seems competitors also need to know how many others are in the classes before the show, even when entries are still open. Many secretaries now put these numbers on social media to minimise the countless requests for this information when busy with vital last-minute preparations. These — alongside "Where is my ring?" — are the most repeated questions at a show.

One of the first things I used to do when arriving at a show was to locate the rings, to see how far they were from the horsebox/stable and whether mine was hazard-free, to determine how much working in was involved. Each competitor is responsible for

reaching their ring in good time and not blaming traffic jams or inefficient loudspeakers if they fail to do so.

I received several communications from exhibitors who couldn't remember what they had pre-entered — if at all! It makes sense to write down the animals' names in the schedule and to send a stamped addressed envelope with the entries. Requesting a text to acknowledge receipt of your entries is pushing one's luck.

Delaying tactics

TWO new trends emerged at this year's show: many did not pay the emergency cover fee until collecting their number — I'm told this was in case they decided not to come to the show. However, this is part and parcel of the entry process and not some kind of starting fee. I can assure you that the first-aid people in attendance still want full payment, whether or not they are busy.

More annoyingly, and despite follow-up calls, a few did not send a cheque or the required Horse of the Year data with their entries. In some instances, I suspect this was a delaying tactic in case they qualified at a previous show. These nomination-type entries were not processed, but will be forwarded to the relevant societies pending further investigation.

Taking entries on the day is popular, but I worry that some show secretaries will become disillusioned by the behaviour of a few who abuse this system. Look how many shows will now only take cash on the day because of problems with bouncing cheques! **H&H**



Opportunities for all

The Grove and Rufford and VWH dominate, and – while kennel cough sadly diminishes numbers put forward – some of the smaller packs enjoy the limelight

**Festival of Hunting
Peterborough, Cambs**

22 July

Foxhounds

By Mark Hankinson

THE 127th Peterborough Royal Foxhound show was sadly diminished by the lack of competitors.

Particularly noticeable was the absence of such influential packs as the Duke of Beaufort's and North Cotswold that – like many others – have been afflicted by this summer's bout of kennel cough.

While the VWH and Grove and Rufford claimed the top prizes, it was an opportunity for many of the smaller packs to shine, in

particular the Fitzwilliam who won the unentered doghound championship.

Two experienced amateur huntsmen judged the doghounds: Andrew Osbourne MFH of the Cottesmore and Will Bryer MFH of the Cattistock. Only six packs were in the ring for the first restricted unentered class with a wide range of kennel types on display.

After some deliberation, the West Norfolk took first and second with two grandsons of Heythrop Striker 08, while the Old English Sir Watkin Williams-Wynn (Wynnstay) were third.

There was a more respectable showing in the open unentered couples class. This was clearly dominated by the VWH with Partridge & Pelican, handsome,

whiskery sons of Student 09.

The unentered championship provided something of a surprise when Fitzwilliam Bretton was victorious – much to the delight of the home crowd. Will Bryer described him as “perfectly balanced, a good mover, plenty of heart room, the sort of working doghound that is going to last”.

Sir Philip Naylor-Leyland, show chairman and joint-master of the Fitzwilliam, received the *Horse & Hound* Challenge Cup for the unentered doghound title. He said: “I’ve often handed the cups out but not often been handed one!”

The VWH were back on winning form in the two couple class with a classic combination of perfectly matched home-breds that epitomised the depth of their kennel. The Grove and Rufford

had to settle for second but their turn came in the stallion hound class, probably the strongest of the morning, with eight packs in.

In a hard-fought finish the Grove and Rufford's Harrogate champion Bellman 13 prevailed over VWH Statesman 13, while the Grove and Rufford's other entrant Magnum 12 took third.

With the judges now firmly in their stride the championship entrants were quickly narrowed down to three; the Chiddingfold, Leconfield and Cowdray's Ardingly champion Grafton 14, Grove and Rufford Bellman 13 and VWH Scoundrel 14 (by Beaumont 10), who formed part of their successful two couple team.

After due consideration, the judges selected Scoundrel with Bellman reserve.



Edited by
Polly Portwin

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The VWH take the two couple doghound class with Nightshirt 14, Scallywag 14, Steptoe 13 and Scoundrel 14. The latter went on to take the doghound championship

"The interesting effect of the major packs' absence was the emergence of so many kennel types from the smaller packs which would not normally get a look in, and having to judge each on its merits," said Will Bryer.

"It was a very close call between Bellman and Scoundrel," added Andrew Osborne. "It really was only when we ran them together that we were able to split them, because we felt the younger, lighter-framed VWH dog was a slightly more fluid mover from his shoulder and front end."

Suffolk Marmalade is a treat
IN the afternoon the bitch hound judging was in the capable hands of Ian McKie MFH, huntsman of the College Valley, and Matt Ramsden MFH, currently hunting the Bedale.

The restricted unentered was deservedly won by the Suffolk's nicely made, scopey Marmalade. The open unentered proved to be the strongest class so far with nine packs in the ring, however the VWH remained head and shoulders above the rest with Jubilant & Naughty, the former being awarded the unentered championship.

Having won the restricted entered couples in the morning with Farthing & Fathom, the Thurlow now made it a double by winning the corresponding bitch class with their littermates Fanfare & Fantail, a suitable credit to hound breeder Robin Vestey MFH.

The Fitzwilliam and the Wynnstay were in the prizes as they had consistently been all day.

There was another good show of hounds in the two couple. This was soon refined to three very different types, the Grove and Rufford with a combination of big, powerful bitches including their Harrogate champion Banish 14, the VWH's striking Ardingly winners and the East Sussex and Romney Marsh's lighter framed

IN THE GENES

VWH Scoundrel

Champion doghound VWH Scoundrel was walked by former joint-master Mark Hill, who initially named him Scottie after the hunt's renowned hound breeder.

However, when Scottie and his siblings returned from walk and Martin Scott found out about the name, he insisted it was changed, claiming it would be unlucky. So he was renamed, but to something that Mark felt still reflected the good major!

Scoundrel also has a distinguished pedigree, his tail female line goes back to Beaufort Saucy 00, who was lent to the VWH by Capt Farquhar. Saucy in turn goes back Petrel 32, given to the late Duke of Beaufort by Ikey Bell and one of the original Welsh outcrosses that created the modern foxhound.

Petrel's tail line can traced back to Brocklesby Cloudy 1740.

broken-coated team. Top honours finally went to the VWH.

The Grove and Rufford again showed the quality of their breeding hounds with Maizey 12 winning the brood bitch while the Heythrop's veteran Raspberry 11 claimed second.

There was a plethora of smart-looking hounds arrayed for the championship. Not surprisingly, though, the finalists were Grove and Rufford with Duchess 12 (by Heythrop Stormer 08), and VWH Niggle 14, a daughter of Sultan 11 and part of their



The Grove and Rufford's 'smart' Duchess 12 secures the bitch hound championship

RESULTS

Foxhounds, doghounds (A Osborne MFH & W Bryer MFH), unentered rest.— 1, West Norfolk Gatcombe (Striker 11-Gaslight 12); 2, West Norfolk Gayton (Striker 11-Gaslight 12); 3, Sir Watkin Williams-Wynn Champion (Domino 11-Christmas 13). **unentered couple.**— 1, VWH Partridge & Pelican (Student 09-Puffin 10); 2, Suffolk Starter & Stroller (Essex & Suffolk Stanley 12-Bayleaf 09); 3, Heythrop Stormer (Zetland Woodcock 09-Story 11) & Wootton (Zetland Woodcock 09-Starbust 11); **entered couple.**— 1, Thurlow Farthing & Fathom 13 (Farrier 11-Moonrise 11); 2, Fernie Drastic & Dresden 13 (Balliff 09-Drama 09); 3, Fitzwilliam Radner & Raider 14 (VWH Rancher 09-Dana 10). **two couple.**— 1, VWH Nightshirt 14 (Sultan 11-Nectar 11) Scallywag & Scoundrel 14 (Beaumont 10-Summer 11) & Steptoe 13 (Student 09-Smiler 09); 2, Grove & Rufford Poacher 14 (Quorn Panther 07-Posy 12), Sabre 13 (Heythrop Stockton 10-VWH Pastel 09), Stilton & Strongbow 14 (Heythrop Stormer 08-Breakfast 11); 3, Chiddingfold Leconfield & Cowdray Glasgow 14 (N Cotswold Grimsby 10-Tapestry 11) Grafton, Grecian & Gregory 14 (N Cotswold Gregory 11-Gadget 11); **stallion hnd.**— 1, Grove & Rufford Bellman 13 (VWH Bellman 11-Quorn Paris 07); 2, VWH Statesman 13 (Student 09-Smiler 09); 3, Grove & Rufford Magnum 12 (Quorn Mendip 08-Heather 09). **ch.**— VWH Scoundrel 14; **res.**— Grove & Rufford Bellman 13.

Bitch hounds (I McKie MFH & M Ramsden MFH), unentered rest.— 1, Suffolk Marmalade (Galahad 09-Matchless 10); 2, Sir Watkin Williams-Wynn Cheerful (Domino 11-Christmas 13); 3, Thurlow Dairymaid (E Sussex & Romney Marsh Dante 11-Stena 11). **unentered couple.**— 1, VWH Jubilant (Beaufort Foreman 12-Justly 13) & Naughty (Rancher 09-Nectar 11); 2, Heythrop Grapevine (Magnum 11-Graying 12) & Happy (Beaufort Halifax 06-Styleish 08); 3, Sir Watkin Williams-Wynn Gracious & Greenfinch (Percy Woolem 09-Grackle 12); **entered couple.**— 1, Thurlow Fanfare & Fantail 13 (Farrier 11-Moonrise 11); 2, Fitzwilliam Raisin & Rapid 14 (VWH Rancher 09-Dana 10); 3, West Norfolk Formal & Fountain 13 (Musket 08-Folly 09). **two couple.**— 1, VWH Niggle, Nightie & Nimble 14 (Sultan 11-Nectar 11) & Rural 14 (Salisbury 08-Ruby 07); 2, Grove & Rufford Banish 14 (VWH Bellman 06-Styleish 11), Duchess 12 (Heythrop Stormer 08-Dazzle 10), Poppy 14 (Quorn Panther 07-Posy 12) & Stately 11 (Heythrop Statesman 08-Heather 09); 3, East Sussex & Romney Marsh Beamish 14 (Dante 11-Baroness 10), Bullfinch & Bunting 13 (VWH Student 09-N Cotswold Backchat 10) & Ladybird 11 (VWH Aztec 06-Larkspur 09). **brood bitch.**— 1, Grove & Rufford Maizey 12 (Quorn Mendip 08-Heather 09); 2, Heythrop Raspberry 11 (Stormer 08-Rosewood 06); 3, VWH Pumpkin 13 (Student 09-Puffin 10); **ch.**— Grove & Rufford Duchess 12. **res.**— VWH Niggle 14.



Farthing & Fathom 13 win the restricted entered couple of doghounds for the Thurlow



attractive two couple entry.

After due deliberation the judges' decision was met by a roar of delight from the Grove and Rufford supporters with the announcement that Duchess had won.

Matt Ramsden gave his view of the afternoon's classes: "The two couple was the strongest and most enjoyable to judge and it was good to see packs that don't normally get in the ribbons doing so well, particularly the Fitzwilliam and the Wynnstay."

While Ian Mackie added: "The VWH young hounds were very

active and showed nicely, their quality really caught the eye. The two couple took some sorting but it would have taken something exceptional to beat the VWH.

"It was also very noticeable how much the quality of the smaller packs had improved throughout," he continued.

"The championship again was strong in depth and there were hounds that could have easily prevailed on another day, but the winner was full of quality. Paul [Larby] must be very proud to have bred a hound like that."



Local winner – Fitzwilliam Bretton, takes the title of unentered doghound champion

Percy on winning spree

Old English

AS with the main ring, the entrants for the Old English classes were down on numbers with only five packs showing, writes Mark Hankinson. The Percy's dominance of this show continued once again claiming both championships and the lion's share of the top prizes.

Noticeable amongst the absentees were the Sir Watkins Williams-Wynn who were not eligible this year as their joint-master and huntsman Richard Tyacke MFH was judging. He was joined by Andrew Cook MFH, huntsman of the Dumfriesshire & Stewartry in Scotland.

The first class for unentered doghounds was a comfortable win for Percy Pompous, who had just come hot foot from competing in the equivalent class in the modern foxhound ring. Second placed Warwickshire Saunter was a well-made son of Belvoir Samson 12, with the Brocklesby's Thomas third.

Percy takes the prizes

THE PERCY continued their winning spree in the entered couples taking first with Cleveland 12 and Lifter 12 (who went on to lift the championship) and third with Porick and Portable 14, all of whom are by their stallion hound Spitfire 08, as were the second placed Hurworth Teacher and Tempter 14.

The Hurworth had better luck in the stallion hound class where the powerfully built Corporal 13



had the edge on Percy Cleveland.

The championship run off was between the bigger, classic Old English Hurworth Teacher 14 and the slightly smaller Percy Lifter 12 who moved superbly around the ring to claim the championship.

Joint-master Michael Hutchinson said: "He is a nightmare to show, but he did it right today."

The afternoon's bitch classes saw some deserved success for the Essex, starting with the unentered which they won with Gallop (out of N Staffs Gamble 12) and second in the entered couples with Teabag & Tempo 14 (by Brocklesby Teaser 06).

However the Percy continued hoovering up the top prizes, Allagra & Allspice 13 – yet more offspring of Spitfire 08 – and out of last year's bitch champion Alaska 11, winning the couples class. While in the brood bitch they took first with Poet 10 and second with Lilac 12. Both of these epitomised the good front and shoulder that the Alnwick kennel produces. The championship finale was between Essex Teabag and Percy Allspice, with victory going to the slightly smaller Percy bitch, who clearly impressed the judges with her lovely conformation and fluid

movement across the ring.

Percy huntsman Robert McCarthy, while admitting that it hadn't been a vintage year, added: "We've had a cracking day and are chuffed to have won both championships again, especially as we couldn't bring our very best hounds as they have all won before. We are really pleased that Lifter has done well as he has refused to show until now."

When asked the secret to his breeding success, Robert replied: "We have crossed and recrossed the Belvoir Poacher and Limerick Tenor lines, and it has certainly worked for us."

Judge Richard Tyacke's overview of the day revealed: "The overall quality wasn't as high as some years, but once again the Percy showed terrific quality throughout their whole team and the Hurworth had some quality doghounds. It was also good to see how much the Essex has improved."

Old English: show president Martin Letts with Percy huntsman Robert McCarthy

RESULTS

Old English (R Tyacke MFH & A Cook MFH), doghounds unentered. – 1, Percy Pompous (Woolem 09-Poet 10); 2, Warwickshire Saunter (Belvoir Samson 12-Poppy 11); 3, Brocklesby Thomas (Limerick Taser 11-Shilling 12. **entered couple.** – 1, Percy Cleveland 12 (Spitfire 09-Clinic 08) & Lifter 12 (Spitfire 08-Linnet 08); 2, Hurworth Teacher & Tempter 14 (Percy Spitfire 08-Teacup 10); 3, Percy Porick 14 (Spitfire 08-Poet 10) & Portable 12 (Spitfire 08-Potion 06). **stallion hnd.** – 1, Hurworth Corporal 13 (Shackle 09-Comfort 10); 2, Percy Cleveland 12 (Spitfire 09-Clinic 08); 3, Warwickshire Harlequin 11 (Sir Watkin Williams-Wynn's Halifax 04-Woeful 08). **ch.** – Percy Lifter 12; res. – Hurworth Teacher 14. **bitch hounds, unentered.** – 1, Essex Gallop (Printer 12-N Staffs Gamble 12); 2, Percy Polka (Woolem 09-Poet 10); 3, Warwickshire Sable (Belvoir Samson 12-Poppy 11). **entered couple.** – 1, Percy Allagra & Allspice 13 (Spitfire 08-Alaska 11); 2, Essex Teabag & Tempo 14 (Brocklesby Teaser 06-Primrose 12); 3, Hurworth Teapot & Tendril 14 (Percy Clinker 12-Cocktail 10). **brood bitch.** – 1, Percy Poet 10 (Warwickshire Porlock 06-Porridge 05); 2, Percy Lilac 12 (Spitfire 08-Linnet 08); 3, Warwickshire Waxwing 11 (Sir Watkin Williams-Wynn's Halifax 04-Walnut 07). **ch.** – Percy Allspice 13; res. – Essex Teabag 14.

Four Shires seal basset crowns

Bassets

HIGH quality was the order of the day in the basset ring, writes *Hannah Hutchings*. Judges Don Peacock and Ian Coghill had their work cut out with seven packs entered, including the newly formed Woolaston Bassets from Gloucestershire.

The under 15ins class started proceedings, and Four Shires Magnum 14 was a clear winner. A compact, smart dog, he commanded the ring while the Westerby's Officer 14 had to be content with second.

East Lincs Viking was successful in the unentered, his strong physique demonstrating just how each pack has a very distinct type. An old favourite, former champion De Burgh Etienne 10 won the entered, beating another former champion, Westerby Atlas 11, into second although Atlas went on to lift the stallion trophy.

Albany and West Lodge Hector 12 and Suggs 14 made a delightful couple, while the veteran went to East Lincs showing Leaddon Vale Elmore 08, still in excellent shape for his eight seasons.

The championship was strong and the judges were methodical in their task, but it was awarded to Four Shires Magnum 14, much to the delight of joint-master Rosie Wilson.

"He's just done his first season and is a pleasure to hunt – in kennels he's known as Mini Magnum!" she said.

Brandy steals the show

AFTER lunch it was the turn of the bitches to impress, and it was lovely to see the Woolaston awarded the under 15ins class showing East Lincs Olive 13. Once again the East Lincs showed depth by producing the winner of the unentered with their Vortex in a strong class of 16.

It was the athletic Four Shires Brandy 10 who headed the entered class, with kennel-mate Hasty 13 second. These compact hounds were obviously favoured by the judges as their Daffodil 11 scooped the brood and progeny class with Dagger, Damsel and Dimple. But it was Brandy who stole the show to be crowned bitch champion, while the Woolaston's Olive deservedly won the reserve.

The battle for supreme was an all Four Shires battle, but it was Brandy who filled the eye and had the edge on her kennel-mate Magnum.

Rosie was quick to attribute their success to her joint-master Rupert Burchett who is in charge of the breeding. This stunning bitch was a worthy winner and a credit to this young team.



Four Shires dominate the basset ring, with Brandy 10 standing supreme champion

RESULTS

Bassets (D Peacock & I Coghill), doghounds:
entered under-15"– 1, Four Shires Magnum 14 (Bladon 10-Alpha 06); 2, Westerby Officer 14 (Otter 10-Ember 07); 3, Albany & W Lodge Soames 14 (Noggin 10-Bubble 08). **unentered–** 1, East Lincs Viking (Westerby Vulcan 08-Elder 12); 2, Four Shires Dagger (Falstaff 12-Daffodil 11); 3, Woolaston Falcon (Four Shires Eager 07-Leaddon Vale Fable 13). **entered–** 1, De Burgh & N Essex Etienne 10 (Rallye La Roche Chenonceaux 07-Biscuit 07); 2, Westerby Atlas 11 (Anchor 03-Ember 07); 3, Four Shires Monarch 14 (Bladon 10-Alpha 06). **couples–** 1, Albany & W Lodge Hector 12 (Noggin 10-Smudge 07) & Suggs 14 (Noggin 10-Bubble 08); 2, Four Shires Farley & Fosco 12 (Huckworthy Orwell 03-Alpha 06); 3, Leaddon Vale Samson & Sergeant 13 (Oracle 07-Sally 09). **stallion hnd.–** 1, Westerby Atlas 11; 2, Four Shires Farley 12; 3, De Burgh & N. Essex Cambridge 08 (Weaver 01-Amber 06). **veteran.–** 1, East Lincs Leaddon Vale Elmore 08 (Leaddon Vale Expert 97-Leaddon Vale Barley 04); 2, East Lincs Westerby Vulcan 08 (Westerby Elton 99-Westerby Venus 06); 3, Leaddon Vale Excel 08 (Leaddon Vale Expert 97-Leaddon Vale Barley 04). **stallion & two progeny.–** 1, Albany & W Lodge Yogi 13 (Dunlop 11-Merry 10), Forbes & Freckle (Yogi 13-Echo 12); 2, De Burgh & N Essex Etienne 10, Jackdaw & Jasmine (Etienne 10-Coral 08); 3, Westerby Atlas 11, Ambush & Anxious (Atlas 11-Saffron 13). **ch.–** Four Shires Magnum. **res.–** De Burgh & N Essex Etienne 10. **bitches:**

entered under-15"– 1, Woolaston East Lincs Olive 13 (Leaddon Vale Elmore 08-East Lincs Osprey 08); 2, Leaddon Vale Sonnett 13 (Oracle 07-Sally 09); 3, Four Shires Daylight 11 (East Lincs Eager 07-Swallow 02). **unentered.–** 1, East Lincs Vortex (Orion 11-Westerby Vodka 11); 2, Four Shires Dimple (Falstaff 12-Daffodil 11); 3, Westerby Anxious (Atlas 11-Saffron 11). **entered.–** 1, Four Shires Brandy 10 (Leaddon Vale Rousham 02-Barley 03); 2, Four Shires Hasty 13 (De Burgh & N Essex Carver 08-Bramble 10); 3, Leaddon Vale Sonnett 13. **couples.–** 1, Albany & W. Lodge Cuckoo 14 (Noggin 10-Goole 09) & Walnut 13 (Noggin 10-Gecko 09); 2, Westerby Vivid & Vixen 11 (Actor 08-Velvet 06); 3, Leaddon Vale Sonnett & Secret 13. **brood bitch.–** 1, Four Shires Daffodil 11 (East Lincs Eager 07-Swallow 02); 2, De Burgh & N Essex Rallye La Roche Giselle 12 (Rallye Le Roche Dampiere 09-Rallye Pres du Sol Cigalle 08); 3, East Lincs Orbit 11 (Ernest 04-Osprey 08) 11. **veteran.–** 1, East Lincs Outfit 08 (Daimler 02-Oyster 05); 2, Westerby Velvet 06 (Viking 00-Tariff 02); 3, Albany & W Lodge Bubble 08 (Sadler 05-Dazzle 03). **bitch & three progeny.–** 1, Four Shires Daffodil 11, Dagger, Damsel & Dimple (Falstaff 12-Daffodil 11); 2, Westerby Velvet 06, Viceroy, Vivid & Vixen 11; 3, Leaddon Vale Tangle (A) 2010 (Unknown-Tally 08) with Taylor, Teasel & Tiddler (Four Shires Eton 12-Tangle (A) 2010). **ch.–** Four Shires Brandy 10; **res.–** Woolaston East Lincs Olive 13. **supreme show champion.–** Four Shires Brandy 10; **res.–** Four Shires Magnum 14.

Invader conquers for Coakham

Bloodhounds

WITH the show rings outdoors, it created a much more natural environment for showing five of the country's 16 registered packs of bloodhounds that entered the unlimited classes, writes *Deborah Kane*.

Judges Colin Ashmore, an international hound judge and bloodhound winner at Crufts and Edward Knowles – a harriers stalwart from Suffolk – found the

'Incomparable' – the Coakham Bloodhound's Invader takes the champion bloodhound title



exhibits to be of a very high standard with some excellent movement.

They were impressed by the good quality and conformation. Mr Ashmore remarked: "If a hound is made right, it will certainly move right."

Nick Wheeler, senior master and huntsman of the Coakham, took top honours. His successful day started when Invader 12 again won the entered dog class, always a real contest, and his young Hawkeye 13 came third.

His second big win was with Debra 12 in the entered bitch class. This was a sign of things to come for the Coakham, who have had the championship winner 15 times before, showing evidence of the pack's depth of quality.

With Darkness, a seriously good stamp of a hound, well balanced with a great stride, the East Anglian Bloodhounds again won the unentered doghound class.

The unentered bitch class was claimed by the Isle of Wight Bloodhounds, whose Connor beat off stiff opposition and was described by judges as "delightful".

This recently formed pack impressed judges with the quality of their bitches in the entered class as well, where Empress came second.

The couples were next up, and again the Coakham shone through with Honey & Humble 12. Previous winners in this class, they are well-built hounds that worked with enthusiasm.

Overall, it proved to be a very productive day with many qualities around the ring and hounds' versatility providing a treat for everyone. The sun even came out when Nick Wheeler collected yet another championship title with the incomparable Invader.

RESULTS

Bloodhounds (C Ashmore, E Knowles MH), **doghounds: unentered.** – 1, East Anglian Darkness (Diagonal 06-Darcey 12); 2, Farmers Ostler (Southern Shires Topper-Keepsake); 3, Highmoor Dylan (Farmers Druid-Readyfield Roseberry 12). **entered.** – 1, Coakham Invader 12 (Indy-Daffodil); 2, Highmoor Rockford 12 (no breeding information); 3, Coakham Hawkeye 13 (Herman-Edam). **bitches: unentered.** – 1, Isle of Wight Connor (Oscar-Conquest); 2, East Anglian Daphne (Diagonal 06-Darcey 12); 3, Farmers Ochre (Southern Shires Topper-Keepsake). **entered.** – 1, Coakham Debra 12 (Indy-Daffodil); 2, Isle of Wight Empress (Diehard-Endey); 3, Farmers Minor (Dreadnought-Keepsake). **couples.** – 1, Coakham Honey 12 & Humble 12 (Rodney-Humbag); 2, East Anglian Daring 13 & Dapper 13 (no breeding information); 3, Highmoor Mallow & Minor. **ch.** – Coakham Invader 12.

Kimble steps up to stand champion



The impressive Berks and Bucks Kimble 13 is awarded the champion draghound title

Draghounds

THREE packs made the trip to the flags this time for judges Edward Knowles MH and Colin Ashmore, who were also presiding over the bloodhound classes, *writes Andrew van Oostrum MDH.*

Mr Knowles is a former master and huntsman of the South Dorset and is now at the Waveney while Mr Ashmore a prominent and international bloodhound judge who has presided over many of the hound classes at Crufts.

All three packs had brought good numbers of hounds to contest the five classes planned for the afternoon. As judging commenced, so did a showery afternoon but the weather didn't dampen the spirits. Friendly competition ensued with plenty of banter between the three familiar huntsmen showing their hounds.

The first class was for unentered doghounds where Berks and Bucks huntsman Andrew Clarke brought in a large entry from the Lambourn-based pack. It was Cheshire Drag Hunt's Riddick 14 – a smart blue mottled dog out of Kimblewick Raven 11 – who took the honours, however.

In the entered doghounds

class, former champion Berks and Bucks Archer 11 was beaten into second by his kennel-mate Kimble 13 who was last year's reserve champion. Kimble 13 has grown on into a very solid and impressive hound. In third was Gateshead 08 for Staff College and Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (SC&RMAS), with huntsman Mark Beckett picking up his first rosette of the day.

In the bitch hound classes the judges were quick to sort out the big entry of unentered, with the Berks and Bucks fast-moving Rattle 14 taking the class. The Cheshire Drag Hunt's striking red bitch Stephanie 14 took second for master huntsman David Harvey, who has this season come back to hunting the pack.

Entered bitches were next to be divided and once again the Berks and Bucks Dumfriesshire breeding seemed to be in favour with the judges. They took first and second with litter sisters Ariel and Artic 11 with SC&RMAS Butterfly 11 in third.

Next came the couple's class where the incredibly attentive and well-matched pair Riddick & Ramsden 14 from the Cheshire Drag Hunt took the top spot.

This just left the championship to be decided from all the winning hounds of the afternoon.

It did not take long for the judges to decide that Berks and Bucks Kimble 13 should go one better than last year and take the championship down to Berkshire for a very happy Andrew Clarke.

Andrew has worked hard alongside senior master Jeff Hobby MDH since joining the pack in 2012 to breed new lines using stallion hounds from the Kimblewick kennels.

"All the hounds shown were lively and active with good all-round conformation," said Edward Knowles, MH. "The champion was a very sound, well-balanced dog with excellent movement." **H&H**

● **NEXT WEEK:** Full coverage of the beagles and harriers classes

RESULTS

Draghounds (E Knowles MH, C Ashmore), **doghounds: unentered.** – 1, Cheshire Drag Riddick 14 (Grove & Rufford Brigand-Kimblewick Raven 11); 2, Berks & Bucks (B&B) Darkwing 14 (Marksman 10-Profit 06); 3, B&B Mustang 14 (Marksman 10-Profit 06). **entered.** – 1, B&B Kimble 13 (Kimblewick Fagin-Kimblewick Plover 08); 2, B&B Archer 11 (Kimblewick Puffin 08-Proxy 08); 3, SC&RMAS Gateshead 08 (VWH Guardsman 30-Avon Vale Needleless 02). **bitches: unentered.** – 1, B&B Rattle 14 (Victor 12-Artic 11); 2, Cheshire Drag Stephanie 14 (CDH Locksmith 12-Stripper 11); 3, B&B Racket 14 (sister to Rattle). **entered.** – 1, B&B Ariel 11 (Kimblewick Puffin 08-B&B Proxy 08); 2, B&B Artic 11 (sister to Ariel); 3, SC&RMAS Butterfly 12 (North East Cheshire Drag Braydon 06-NECDH Buttress 08). **couple.** – 1, Cheshire Drag Riddick 14 & Ramsden 14; 2, B&B Archer 11 & Darkwing 14; 3, CDH Pippin 13 & Pictur 13 (Sir WWW Panther 10-Sir WWW Pickle 08). **ch.** – Berks & Bucks Kimble 13.

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England stalwart Mark Tomlinson (in white) brings the ball forward, closely marked by South America's captain, Chilean Jaime García Huidobro

England conquer Coronation Cup

Royal Salute Coronation Cup Guards, Berks

25 July

By Polly Bryan

ENGLAND reclaimed the Coronation Cup in superb style, with James Beim leading the team to a masterful 10-6 victory over South America.

Having lost the coveted trophy to Argentina in 2014, this year's team came on to the field visibly hungry to recoup the title, which they duly did. They outplayed their opponents throughout, producing brilliant four-man polo.

For James Beim, who took over the England captaincy from Luke Tomlinson at the beginning of this season, the victory brought relief as much as exultation.

"It couldn't have gone better – it's a weight off my shoulders," he said. "I really didn't want to have to watch the other captain lifting the trophy. I've been thinking about it a lot, and I wanted to be the one to lift it."

It may have been Beim's first year as captain, but this was his

ninth Coronation Cup. As stalwarts of the England team, Beim and brothers Mark and Luke Tomlinson boast an impressive 32 International Day appearances between them, and their experience and knowledge of each other's play was evident.

At the other end of the scale, Max Charlton was making an impressive Coronation Cup debut at just 24 years old. The seven-goaler proved invaluable in the instrumental number three position, hitting the ball with impressive precision and engineering much of England's ferocious and fruitful attack. He was rewarded with the most valuable player (MVP) prize, particularly gratifying following his disappointment at not being selected for last year's event, and prompting many to question how long he would remain at seven goals.

"I was disappointed last year

but it left me wanting [to play the Coronation Cup] more," he said. "It feels amazing just to play, let alone to win – and win MVP."

Exemplary polo

WHILE the opposition did not include the world's best players,

10-goalers Adolfo Cambiaso and Facundo Pieres, as was the case last year, this year's visiting team included a hefty threat in the shape of Brazilian nine-goaler Rodrigo Andrade, past winner of both the Queen's Cup and

Gold Cup and ruthlessly skilful. Backed up by team captain, eight-goaler Jaime García Huidobro, as well as Manuel Fernandez Llorente and Jose Klaban, playing off six and four respectively, this was a team to be reckoned with, and England knew it.

But the home side held the advantage in familiarity and horsepower, and stamped their authority on the match from the

outset, putting away two goals in the first chukka courtesy of Charlton and Luke Tomlinson, who as England's highest-rated back remained a firm team choice after stepping down as captain.

As the third chukka got underway England were 4-1 up. But with Andrade aboard the lightning-quick Silver Lining, later named best playing pony, he closed the gap with two goals in rapid succession. England looked to be flagging, as the bullish Brazilian escaped their hassling to launch some effective attack.

But this was to be the last time South America looked to have the upper hand. England returned to the field after half-time with vigour and determination, Beim reminding their rivals who was in charge with a neck shot through

TEAMS

England 10 South America 6

England: 1, J Beim (7); 2, M Tomlinson (6); 3, M Charlton (7); L Tomlinson (7)

South America: 1, J Klaban (4); 2, M Fernandez Llorente (6); 3, R Andrade (9); 4, J García Huidobro (8)



Edited by
Madeleine Pitt

@madeleinepitt
DO YOU HAVE A POLO STORY?
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goal. Mark Tomlinson, having a storming game to cap off his highly successful season, added to the lead aboard the agile Silk.

With the scoreboard reading 6-4, Llorente looked to have a goal in the bag, until it was backed at the last second by Luke Tomlinson, turning the play around in a flash to allow Beim to fly upfield and score.

England's dynamic play continued throughout the second half, as they put on a display of

exemplary polo to which South America struggled to find an answer. The synergy between the quartet made for aesthetically pleasing polo, with just six of the total goals scored from penalties, and eight of England's points from field goals.

Try as they might, South America barely had a look in during the sixth, as Charlton swept the ball through the posts, before adding another on the end of a well-placed shot from Mark

Tomlinson. A final attack from Beim put the nail in the coffin as, despite a late penalty conversion from Llorente, England romped home worthy winners.

"We knew we had to be hungry for it, and start desperate to win, which we did," said Beim. "We began well, then missed a few opportunities. At half-time Ruso Heguy, our coach, told us not to

panic and rush, that we have more time than we think, and to maintain discipline on the man."

"You always expect the game to be tough," added Mark Tomlinson. "But we had the upper hand with horses and the fact that we know each other so well. We put it all into play and for the last two chukkas we were almost perfect." **H&H**

TALKING POINTS

Good going

FOR the first time, the morning match – in which Black Bears beat Tempest 8-6 in the British 10-goal Championship – was played on the number two field, and players praised the quality of the Queen's Grounds as a result.

"Without four chukkas played on the field that morning the ground was very smooth, which made for fluid play and more field goals," explained Beim. "It's an important thing to look at again in future."

Borrowed horsepower

PLAYERS on both teams benefited from the generous loaning of ponies, with only Llorente playing solely on his own horses. Several of England's standout ponies were borrowed from other English players including Charlie Hanbury, Ed Hitchman and Ollie Cudmore, as many of the Brits' horses were already in Spain ahead of the Sotogrande season.

Silver Lining, played by Andrade and named best playing pony, was no stranger to the Queen's Ground – he was played by Beim in England's Westchester Cup victory in 2013.



James Beim ends his season on a high as he receives his prize from Prince Charles

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6 equestrian careers that don't involve mucking out

Love horses but don't fancy spending your days behind a wheelbarrow?
Hanna Lindon digs out some jobs that should fit the bill

1 Photography

What to expect: photography can be incredibly varied, from visiting shows and events to engaging in privately commissioned shoots.

Are you right for the job? "If you wish to excel as a photographer, a great deal of motivation, determination, initiative and hard work is required," says Ciara Doone, who runs her own equine photography business.

Training and qualifications: the photography industry is largely unregulated.

Top tips for finding work: "My advice to anyone starting out as a freelancer or looking to set up their own business would be to get support and network," says Ciara. "You simply can't talk to enough people when you're starting out and getting some good, solid business

advice really is invaluable."

A proven commitment to photography is essential.

Initially you may have to work for free to create a portfolio. Once established, salary will depend on work.

Succeeding as an equestrian photographer involves initiative and hard work, as well as plenty of networking

2 Marketing

What to expect: there is a wide range of marketing jobs within equestrianism, so you could find yourself promoting horse feed, clothing, an individual rider or even a major event. Roles tend to be creative and sociable, often with plenty of travel involved.

Are you right for the job? Candidates should be creative, motivated and good communicators. You should also be prepared to take

on long hours and occasional weekend work.

Training and qualifications: most roles require candidates to be degree qualified. Some colleges run courses that specifically cover equestrian marketing, such as the foundation degree in equine business events management at Askham Bryan College. A general marketing or journalism qualification may also be an advantage.

Top tips for finding work: Tim Smith, MD of equestrian/rural PR and marketing agency TSM, says: "One of the best ways to get into the industry is to try to gain work experience, whether in-house or at an agency. We regularly have young people come for periods of time and I think it is very beneficial for them to see what is involved on a daily basis, to

experience the good days and the more trying ones.”

Guideline starting salary: £20k

3 Accountancy

What to expect: equestrian accountants look after the financial and tax affairs of clients across the disciplines, from racehorse trainers and breeders to polo, dressage and event yards.

Are you right for the job? “An interest in horses is a bonus, because clients like to know that we are interested in their business,” says Peter Treadgold of Smith & Williamson. “The reality is, though, that we’re accountants first and horse people second — although my team and I are able to combine business with pleasure, which means that sometimes it doesn’t feel like work.”

Training and qualifications: firms like Smith & Williamson take university graduates in a wide range of subjects, as well as post-A-level school leavers with good GCSEs in maths and English. A degree in equestrian business management, such as that on offer at Hartpury College, could prove an advantage. After three years (five for school leavers) of work and exam-based training, students will qualify as chartered accountants.

Top tips for finding work: “I’m always really interested to hear from people who have an equestrian background,” says Treadgold. “So on top of good maths and English GCSEs, a strong interest in horses is a real plus.”

Guideline starting salary: £25k

4 Law

What to expect: only a small number of law firms in the UK specialise in serving the horse industry. Lawyers working in the equestrian market will generally have their own specialism — such as litigation or commercial law — and a back-up on wider issues such as matrimonial, employment, trust or agricultural law.

Are you right for the job? academic aptitude, commitment and a willingness to work long hours are all essential.

Training and qualifications: you will first need either a law degree or a degree in an unrelated subject followed by a law conversion course. Then, depending on whether you want to become a barrister or a solicitor, you will do

a one-year Legal Practice Course (LPC) or Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC). The final stage of qualification is a two-year training contract with a law firm.

Top tips for finding work: “The industry is very competitive and most graduates will need to demonstrate to a future employer that they have already done some work experience,” says Justin Wadham, a consultant at Newmarket-based equestrian and sports law firm Edmondson Hall. “If you want to act in the horse world, a knowledge of horses and the industry is fundamental.”

Guideline starting salary: £35k

5 Land management and property

What to expect: working in the property industry could involve anything from preparing grazing licences for paddocks to providing valuations for equestrian property owners and marketing yards for sale.

Are you right for the job? “Good communication skills are key — you need to be approachable and professional,” says Louise Elliott, who works for Savills’ Rural Agency. “A good grasp of spelling and grammar is important for report writing and preparing sales particulars,” she adds.

Training and qualifications: a degree in land management is useful but not essential.

Top tips for finding work: “I have always been flexible on location,” says Louise, “which makes keeping a horse difficult but has created more opportunities for me.”

Guideline starting salary: £20k

Being an equine physiotherapist requires a good work ethic and plenty of motivation, as well as being a good communicator

6 Physiotherapy

What to expect: assessing horses with physical problems and treating injuries or discomfort with various forms of therapy are key components of equine physiotherapy. A physiotherapist could see between four and 14 clients every day and will be in constant communication with vet practices and horse owners.

Are you right for the job?

Maruska Aylward of Bridgefield Physiotherapy, in Surrey, says that a good work ethic and motivation are essential. “You have to be a problem solver and ideally have a scientific but practical mind.”

Training and qualifications: to become a Category A member of the Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Animal Therapy (ACPAT), you must first obtain a BSc honours degree in human physiotherapy, followed by a postgraduate diploma or master’s degree in veterinary physiotherapy. ACPAT-recognised postgraduate courses include those from Hartpury College and the University of Liverpool, although clinical experience in human physiotherapy can be a prerequisite. Alternative routes outside of ACPAT are available, with courses on offer at the College of Animal Physiotherapy and Writtle College.

Top tips for finding work: “Obtain as much work experience as possible,” advises Maruska. “Ensure you take A-level biology at least, and it helps to be a rider and a horse owner.”

Guideline starting salary: £40-£90 per horse H&H



EXCITING TIMES AHEAD

AS UNIQUE CENTRE OPENS AT HARTPURY



A new rider performance centre will open its doors at Hartpury College this September - the first of its kind in the UK. The new centre will support riders of all levels to enhance their performance and give equestrian students even more opportunities to apply the theory they learn in the classroom in a practical setting.

The Margaret Giffen Centre for Performance in Equestrian Sports will enable riders from all disciplines and levels to access facilities and professional therapists that will enhance their performance and help them to rehabilitate from injury.

The opening of the new centre also ties in with the launch of a new degree programme in Equestrian Sports Coaching,



Hartpury students already have access to first class facilities, including an Aquafit treadmill in the college's own Equine Therapy Centre.

which will develop students' coaching skills and support them to apply theory through practical sessions with horse and riders partnerships at all levels.

Students from a range of college and university equine courses will have access to the new centre, which will incorporate a state-of-the-art strength and conditioning

suite, rider performance zone including horse simulator, 3D motion capture and electromyography equipment, alongside weightlifting platforms and sport therapy area.



"I've always been into horses and that's what attracted me to Hartpury as the facilities were outstanding. When I did work experience for Horse and Hound, they were very impressed with my knowledge of the industry and really rated Hartpury as a high-end equine institution. You're exposed to so many people in the industry here, including top coaches."

Stephanie Bateman
Hartpury graduate and Equine journalist

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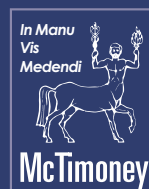
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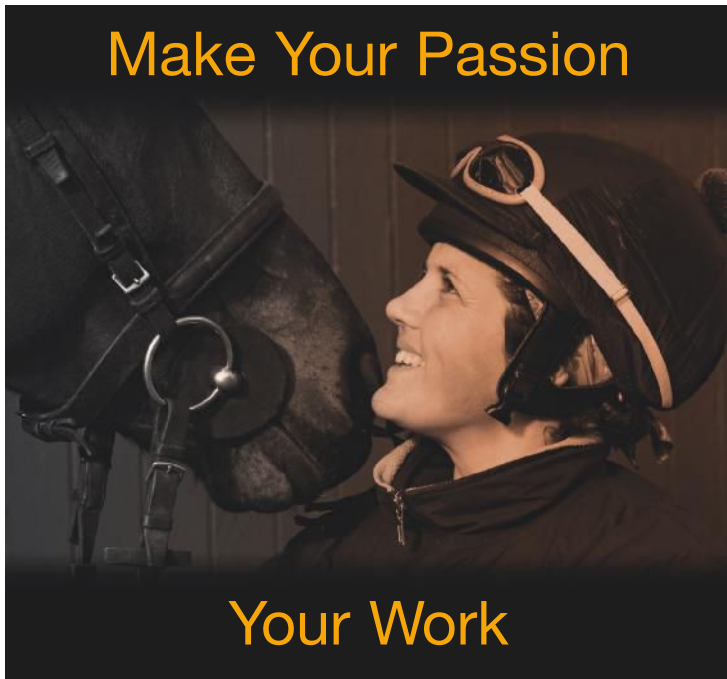
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Horse of the Year Show (HOYS) will once again be offering our successful Educational Talks Programme at this year's Show. Each year HOYS offer Universities and Colleges the rare opportunity to hear from the best professionals in the equestrian business.

The guest speakers range from farriers, vets, sponsors and show organisers to equestrian journalists. Each speaker brings with them a wealth of insider advice and the knowledge and experience to pass on just what it takes to succeed in the industry.

This year for the first time HOYS are opening up these talks to a wider audience. Traditionally the Educational Talks Programme is only open to Colleges and Universities, however in 2015 Riding Clubs will also have the chance to participate in this fantastic programme.

Educational Talks will take place on Wednesday and Thursday daytime and places are limited.

If you are a member of a College, University or Riding Club and would like to be involved in the Educational Talks Programme, or would like further information please contact press@hoys.co.uk to register your interest.



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16h 3ins & Over

Fantastic Dressage / SJ

Height: 16.3 hands

Age: 7 years **Price:** £6,500

Location: Guildford, Surrey

Description: Good looking quality chestnut gelding by Unbelievable Darco x I.S.H. 7 years. Fin has an amazing movement and presence, he has competed BSJA British Novice and hunted last season with the Surrey Union. He is home bred and has been brought on slowly. Great horse for dressage, eventing or show jumping. Excellent in traffic, box, shoe and clip. Super temperament. **01403753094 / 07802744106**



Belleens queen

Height: 16.3hh

Age: 8 year old

Price: £8,500

Location: Leicestershire

Description: By silver granite. Hunted in Ireland. Successfully competed up to foxhunter level BS. Very pleasant mare with fantastic attitude. Would make a great working hunter! A real family horse.

07791146868

loulou-079@hotmail.co.uk

Exciting prospect 2016

Height: 16.3hh **Age:** 5 year old

Price: £12,500 **Location:** Shropshire

Description: 16.3hh, 5 year old gelding very well bred with Cruising and Clover hill line. A lovely natured genuine horse. Has competed dressage and combined training. Placed every time out. Gets very good percentages and has had a 78% and 2 x 9's. He is showing great talent over a showjump and has been introduced to cross country, where he showed a bold and brave attitude. Has been bought on slowly due to his size but will be a great horse to take on in any sphere next season. Snaffle mouth, good to hack, shoe, travel etc. **07850 943158 / 01564 794020**



17hh handsome bay gelding

Height: 17 hands

Age: 5 year old

Price: £3,000

Description: Reg Irish Sport by High Ho Silver, dam by Cloughjordan Boy. Breeding includes King of Diamonds, Grey Macha. 5 yrs. Really super big upstanding horse up to plenty of weight. Absolute gentleman to ride and handle. Snaffle mouth. Hunted in Ireland and competed XC and SJ. Riding really well. Make ideal masters horse/classy allrounder. Really moves and jumps. No vices.

07778414739. No text please.



Novice Eventer by Stormhill Miller

Height: 16.3hh **Age:** 8yo **Price:** £12,500 ONO

Description: Smart bay gelding by Stormhill Miller. Beautifully schooled professionally produced horse with 10 BE points, 32 FB, won BE100 & BE Novice and qualified Novice Regional Finals 2015. Previously Hunted with the Blackmore & Sparkford Vale and Portman Hunts. Fit & competing now. Seen at livery with excellent trial facilities.

07557 125 941 nickandsarapayne@gmail.com

Eventer Hunter Allrounder

Height: 17.1hh **Age:** 6yo **Price:** £12,500

Location: Glos

Description: Dark bay gelding. By Stravinsky TB Out of Hendersyde Limpopo (It's without Doubt) Half sister to Out Of Africa. Lovely natured home bred horse with great attitude to work. Evented up to BE100 & well hunted with the Berwickshire. Loose moving, with a scopey jump. This quality young horse has been produced slowly. Fit & entered up. No vices.

07974 659 560

mikejacksoneventing@gmail.com



Event/show/hunter

Height: 16 hands 3 ins

Age: 4 year old

Price: £6,500

Location: Scottish Borders

Description: Well bred ISH gelding. very trainable, kind nature, easy to do, honest and willing, correctly produced, superb potential. Placed and clear every time out showing and jumping. 5th in strong BYEH Qual. Hunted in Ireland. Would suit any size rider. Excellent trial facilities.

01835 840307 or 07818 424246 (Kirsty)

(images Sinclair Photography)



Stunning 5 y/o cob mare

Height: 17 hands **Age:** 5 years **Price:** POA

Location: Somerset, Bath

Description: Mare not to be missed. Constantly improving in her training, schooling very nicely and proving to have a big brave jump. Crunchie is a fab hunter for a man or a lady, she hack out alone or in company, working at prelim level, would show or be an all round riding club horse. She is 100% to box, shoe and clip and handle on the ground, she really is a type hard to find with the sweetest temperament. Not a typical heavy horse to ride, responsive and light in the hand.

07760 641 601 mr.macdonald86@gmail.com

17hh schoolmaster eventer/hunter

Price: POA **Description:** Has evented all season with novice rider, gaining multiple qualifications to Badminton Grassroots & Blenheim Palace Eventers Challenge. DR always in the low 30's & 20's with a clean forgiving jump both XC & SJ. Hunted in the biggest of countries for 2 seasons. No blemishes, no vices, hacks out alone & in co., God to box, shoe & clip. All round perfect gentleman. Reluctant sale, please contact for more info/pics/vids. Julie Lawson Mobile: **07718 366 270 jim.themill@btinternet.com**



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Bargain. Talented versatile tough Polo all-rounder Irish Mare

Height: 15.3hh approx **Age:** 12yo **Price:** £3,200
Description: Good looking tough well bred mare. Has played polo (2014) jumps coloured poles, would lend herself to any job, perfect for ambitious polo playing teenager. Good in traffic & easy to handle on the ground, loads, ties, leads etc but can buck! Hence needs younger better rider than current nervous 44yo mum. Genuine honest sale, will give someone lots of fun. No vices, no problems.
01692 651 787 pointhouse@live.com



Ustinov X Burggraaf X Lord Calando

Height: 16hh **Age:** 7 year old **Price:** £20,000
Location: Fife, Dunfermline
Description: Beautiful dark bay, blood type mare. Mother already produced 5* showjumping nations cup horse. Well produced. BSJA actual £753, points 293. Started late as bred super foal, first registered last year, gaining British Novice, discovery and newcomers double clears for 2015, and already has 2016 double clears for newcomers. Now jumping foxhunter double clear. Good event prospect. **07792514502**



EXCITING FUTURE PROSPECT

Winner of BE100. Stunning, 6 year old chestnut gelding, 4 white socks and blaze. Very well bred by Carrick Diamond Lad. Stands about 16.1 hh. Lovely sweet natured character. Started his eventing career this season and has had two double clears at BE90 for 6th and 10th, Double Clears BE100 placed and won last time out. Quite simply amazing cross country, super confident and super quick. Not far of being ready for novice. Definitely an incredibly exciting prospect for the future.

Shropshire 07850 943158
/ 07989 797386



16.2HH ID Gelding

Price: £4,750 ONO
Description: Timmy is a handsome BFG 3 nice paces, has been to training shows & XC schooled (which he loved) jumped everything we pointed him at. Has hunted with previous owner, make a fantastic hunter or family horse, loves to jump & will always try his hardest to please. Good to handle, box, clip. Could eventually go in to any sphere. Please no complete novices as he is only 4yrs. Only selling as rider going abroad.
07735 491 466 alex_milly@hotmail.com

Classical Bred Stallion for sale

Height: 16hh **Age:** 10yo **Price:** £POA
Description: Classically bred stallion - son of Welton Romance (European Eventing Champion mare) by Accondy (by Sadlers Wells) Previously competed BD Novice & schooled SJ & XC. Same owner since a foal - very sad sale! Only for sale due to rider pregnancy. Can be seen at livery in Suffolk. Must go to experienced, knowledgeable home. No time wasters or novices please. Price negotiable to the right home! **07702 974747 pennie.wallace@btinternet.com**



Allrounder / Hunter

Height: 16.2hh **Age:** 7yo
Price: £6,500

Description: Nelson is pure bred Irish draught all-rounder / hunter. Nelson will jump up to 1.20m, a real gentleman, ridden here by novice students good in traffic, will hack out alone or company, take a look at his video. Nelson is from one of the top Irish draught families. **Visit my web site: www.irishsportequine.com 00353 868 077 626 gertytynan@gmail.com**



15.3hh Hunter

Height: 15 hands 3 ins **Age:** 9 year old **Price:** £5,250 ono
Location: N Yorks
Description: 9yr old ID x Connemara Irish bred mare. Hunted 5 seasons, 4 in Ireland and last season with the Middleton and Y&A South. Super talented mare really knows her job, proving to be brave and bold over big hedge / timber country. Very careful over a ditch and good in water. Such a confidence giver to a fence. Regularly hunted in the field with a teenager and has also field mastered. Has three correct rhythmic paces, a responsive ride on the flat and very careful to SJ. Competed SJ and XC. Good to do in all ways, hacks out alone / in company. **07951 740998**



Dark brown Irish gelding

Height: 16 hands 2 ins
Age: 6 year old
Price: £6,250
Location: West Midlands
Description: Dark brown full up 16.2hh 6yo Irish gelding. Snaffle mouth, works well on the flat, hacks alone and in company, is currently jumping 1m and 1.10 successfully and with ease, knows his job very well, good to box shoe clip. Great conformation with looks to match big scopey future.
07811 954899



Top Class All Rounder

Height: 16.2hh **Age:** 9yo **Price:** £8,000
Description: Liver chestnut gelding, very smart upstanding gelding, a type hard to find. A classy gentlemen / ladies hunter, polite mannerly arm chair ride, goes first or last in any country, very well schooled with 3 expressive paces, very light mouthed, goes well in snaffle or double, well placed in the show ring, sold with a ride at equestrian life in the novice working hunter. Exceptional careful jump, will jump anything.
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Experienced, Brave and Successful CCI* Packer

Height: 16.1hh **Age:** 12yo **Price:** Negotiable
Location: North America, Canada
Description: Pog Mahome is a bold TB. Competed successfully through CCI* level. Very nice mover, scores well in DR with good temp. Extremely careful in SJ & a great horse to ride on XC, very brave & willing. Well experienced & has been competing in Eventing from a young age, in both Canada & the U.S. No soundness issues. Great to bring someone up the ranks in Eventing. **905-449-5868** sophie.ochocinski@icloud.com



A real winner

Height: 16 hands 2 ins **Age:** 9 year old
Price: Offers in region of £8,500
Description: Heartbreaking sale of beloved talented superstar due to riders change in personal circumstance. Sold with rides at BS festival and Scope. Schooled up to 120 and courses to 115. Still eligible Discovery, always polite, confident and careful with bags of scope. Beautiful snaffle mouth with three springy uphill paces has schooled cross country hacks alone or in company and sunrise, top class showjumper or eventer, used to kids, dogs, farm machinery, a very special easy horse, a dream in every way truly beautiful inside and out. **07759454195**



16.2hh Gelding

Height: 16.2hh **Age:** 7 year old **Price:** £10,000
Description: Excels at showing has won many championships. Brilliant hunter. Also Events and has a superb temperament. **07878673624** (we at Horse & Hound apologize for the advert placed last week with the same photograph, we apologize for any confusion caused)



Exceptional 5yo; ready to affiliate BSJA

Height: 15.2hh
Price: £7,500
Location: Fareham, Hampshire
Description: Beautifully balanced little mare with an exceptional jump. Successful unaffiliated record, ready to jump Newcomers. **07814 361 696** chloe.constable24@gmail.com



16.2 hunter

Age: 7yo **Price:** £3,250
Description: Black gelding, hunted 3 seasons, crosses all country, snaffle mouthed, good to clip shoe box, hack out on own, brought on slowly, genuine reason for sale. **07836 742 836** beesley7@googlemail.com



Irish gelding

Height: 16.1hh **Age:** 6yo
Price: £4,500 ONO
Description: This super boy has 3 very good paces & a very sweet nature, a trier with a big heart. Now jumping British novices & ready to move on. Good on the flat and super easy to hack etc. Snaffle mouthed, not strong. Good to shoe, box, clip & in all traffic. **07708 866 735** nickisteed03@outlook.com



Chorleys Lord George

Height: 15 1/2 hh **Age:** 11yo **Price:** £3,500 ONO
Description: By RIHS Champion coloured stallion Copybush Chiron. George is a homebred fun loving gelding. He has been amateur ridden all his life and home produced with a snaffle mouth. Very successfully shown in CHAPS and BSPA classes, qualifying for the RIHS himself in 2013. He is now schooling over cross country fences and taking part in fun rides, would hunt. Ideal PC/RC all rounder. No vices. Loyal & loveable. Easy to do. **07970 790 403** enquiries@chorleyflock.com

Handsome Well Bred Sport Horse

Height: 16hh **Age:** 6yo **Price:** £3,495 ONO
Description: Brave is a beautiful boy who takes after his name. Fantastic character, clever, bold & very gentle. Good in traffic, hacks alone or in co., lives in or out. Easy to catch, load & shoe. Passported, microchipped, shod, up to date with teeth, vaccs & worming. Huge potential to jump, hack, school or XC; but sadly I don't have the time to give him that he truly deserves. Comes with all tack. **Jim 07941 804 541** jim.shannon68@yahoo.co.uk



Jimbo, bay gelding

Height: 16.1hh
Age: 10yo
Price: £4,500
Description: Handsome Irish sports horse. Great confidence builder. Competed at local shows, XC schooled. Safe to hack. Safe bold jump. **07792 982 945** claireparnell168@hotmail.com



15.2 flashy quality coloured mare

Height: 15 hands 2 ins **Age:** 6 year old
Price: £3,000
Description: Reg Irish Sport 6 years. Sweetest little horse who rides quietly. Snaffle mouth. Competed XC and SJ well, hunted in Ireland proving bold and mannerly. Rides in a lovely soft outline. Moves and jumps really well. Lots of scope. Ideal event/SJ/hunt etc. Lovely temperament. No vices. **07778414739**. No texts please.

Super Allrounder

Height: 16 hand 2 ins
Age: 9 year old
Price: £7,950 ono
Description: Bay gelding. A real confidence giver and a pleasure ride. A very happy, loving boy for someone to have great fun with. Recently won/placed BS show jumping novice, careful and fast against clock. Could suit a novice, teenager, keen amateur or mother/teenager share wanting to have fun with a quality horse. Potential dressage **07778 616 990**



Chestnut gelding

Height: 16.2hh
Age: 6 year old
Price: £7,500
Description: Gelding by lakeshore road, out of Irish mare. Jumps, show jumps or X country. Hunting in England and Ireland last 2 seasons. Fit and ready to event or autumn hunting. Video Available. **01347823694**



Super young horse

Height: 15.2hh **Age:** 4yo
Price: £1,900
Location: Ches / Staffs border
Description: Chestnut gelding, 17/8ths TB. Only broken in 2 mths ago due to lack of time but now going very nicely on the flat & hacking out alone. Wonderful temperament & very quick & willing to learn. Will make super small ladies or teenagers eventer. Owned since a yearling, but sadly not grown big enough for tall rider. Must go to good experienced home only. **07813 622 489** suetide@live.co.uk



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14h 2ins & Under

Top Class Tet/Eventing Pony

Height: 14.2hh Age: 9yo
Price: £7,000

Description: Grey Rob, Connemara, Gelding, true all rounder who excels at XC. Will be in Hereford competing BE90 on the 12th of August. Home more important than price for this 5* pony. 07825 170 812 pjoness142@btinternet.com



Competition pony

Height: 14 hands 2 ins

Age: 5 year old

Price: £3,500

Location: Scottish Borders

Description: Connemara mare with serious potential. Good paces, loves jumping, honest and kind nature. Hacks alone or in company. Well built and easy to do. Got to be a star of the future. SJ/ EVENT great allrounder and best friend!

01835 840307 or 07818 424246 (Kirsty)

(Image Sinclair Photography)



A perfect pair

Age: 5 and 6 year old Price: £1,000 buys both, or £650 each. Description: Two adorable registered coloured Shetlands. The mare is 5yrso and the gelding is 6yrso. Both are ridden and handled daily by young children. They will stand for hours to be groomed, jumped on bareback, tied up to absolutely anything and led everywhere including my house. They are quiet to catch, box, farrier and in the stable. Both are happy to wander around the yard and graze on the lawn. Definitely no laminitis/sweet itch or other health issues. It would be amazing to think that they could find a home together. Tel: 01873 890298 (Mons)



Friesian X Cob gelding

Height: 14.2hh

Age: 5yo

Price: £1,750

Description: Dark baby Friesian stallion Luiwe. Lewis has been broken to ride & would make an excellent driving cob. Good mannered & easy to box, living in /out. Lewis shows himself well in 3 very good paces. 01768 777 298 laura@hollowsfarm.co.uk



'Always fresh and something new to see'

Julia from Wiltshire

A superstar shetland

Height: 36 inches Age: 5 year old Price: £1,250

Location: Herefordshire

Description: Registered Shetland pony society, 5 years blue + white mare, 36 inches approx. This darling pony needs no introduction! She's bomb proof, used to balloons, rugs, dogs and hose pipe. Has had many wins in the show ring. Also champion fancy dress first time out. Excellent in traffic, hacks up the lane with or without company, also goes off the lead rein being superb. An angel to handle in every way with the farrier, to lead and to travel. These ponies don't come along very often. 07583526998



Dogs

Lurcher puppies for sale

Price: POA

Location: Hampshire

Description: Dogs & bitches available. Assortment of colours - brindle, grizzlies, black Smithfield Norfolk Tumbler bloodlines. Ready to go first week of August.

For more information, please email or call. 07778 474 299 bethboyes2@gmail.com



14.2hh Event / Competition Pony

Height: 14 hands 2 ins Age: 7 year old Price: £11,500 ono

Location: N Yorks

Description: Stunning 7yo Reg Connemara by Earl Of Newbridge. Super talented, bold and genuine mare. Placed BE90s, schooled BE100 & Novice XC. Placed PC Open ODEs, WHPs, M&Ms, SJ to 1.10m. Qualified NSEA SJ Champs 2015, done PC inc camp, won many dressage prelim & Novice. Quiet to do in all ways, snaffle mouthed. Loves to compete, has enjoyed excellent start to BE, ideal FEI prospect. 5* competitive home only please. Videos available, no txts please. Home priority. 07951 740998



Jack Russel Puppies

Docked tails with paperwork and microchipped, both parents loving and playfull but obedient and good ratters, wonderful with children, loving homes only please.

07843663205 or 01749673428

"Well... I have to say Horse & Hound online ads really are the best for response! I need a PA to take all the calls! 3 put on at 10am - I'd had over 35 emails/texts/calls by the evening!"

Ellen Blackburn (09/07/2015)

Experienced Connemara Hunting Machine

Height: 14.1hh Age: 19yo Price: £3,000 Description: Exceptional Dun Connemara Hunting Pony. Woody been in the same hunting home for the last 8 yrs. Since arriving with us, he has hunted every single Saturday of the hunting season in Leics. Jumps anything, a hunting addict. Stunning pony with perfect conformation. Would suit a good child or teen that loves hunting. Sound & ready to get fit for the next hunting season. 07807 480 708 sa.cornwall@gmail.com



Youngstock Under 3k

Registered Dales Gelding

Height: 14hh Age: 2yo Price: £300

Description: Stunning looking, has the wow factor, good correct movement, ideal for the show ring. Handled every day, will be a real joy to bring on. Good with farrier, easy to handle, groom & bath, ties up well, loads well in a trailer or lorry. Lovely & quiet natured pony. Can't praise him enough only looking for a new 5* home as I can't cope with 3 youngsters. 07812 419 579 angie172@yahoo.com



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Irish Sport Horse

Age: 1yo

Price: £950

Description: Dan has superb conformation and lovely paces. Skippy bloodlines. Damsire Robellino (USTB) great all rounder will do well in any sphere.

07887 504 751 spalin@blueyonder.co.uk



BY GRAFFENSTOLZ

Height: 16.2hh Age: 1yo

Price: £2,500

Description: Top quality homebred yearling filly by former world champion young event horse Gaffenstolz, out of classy 3/4 bred winning show hack (by Ottergayle) Bred to event, she is very attractive with excellent paces and conformation, and a bold inquisitive attitude to life. 07886 620 929 vallancashire@live.co.uk



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07878673624

Horses For Sale



Just Over From Ireland

Height: 16 hands

Age: 6 year old

Price: £6,000

Description: 16 hands 6yrs roan ISH gelding has competed successfully in training shows HT. WH. And is a brilliant hunter.

07878673624

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Age: 14 year old

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Horse to Share

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07794598042

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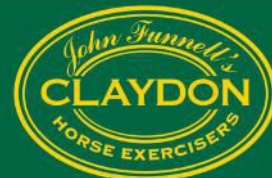


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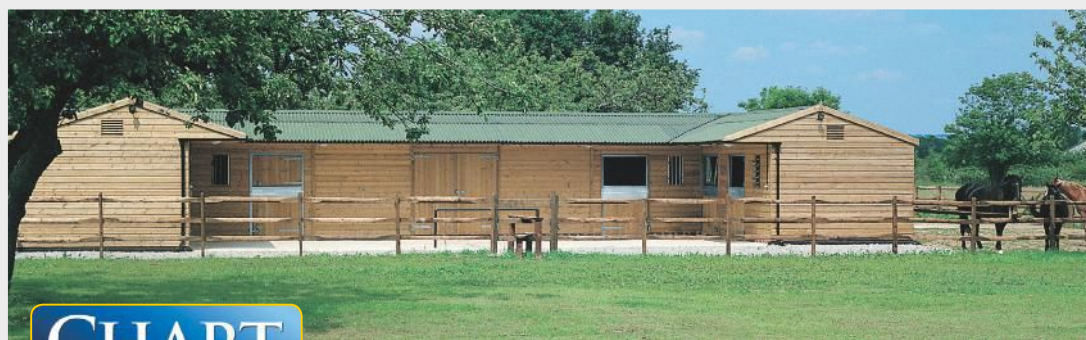


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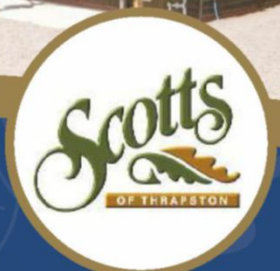


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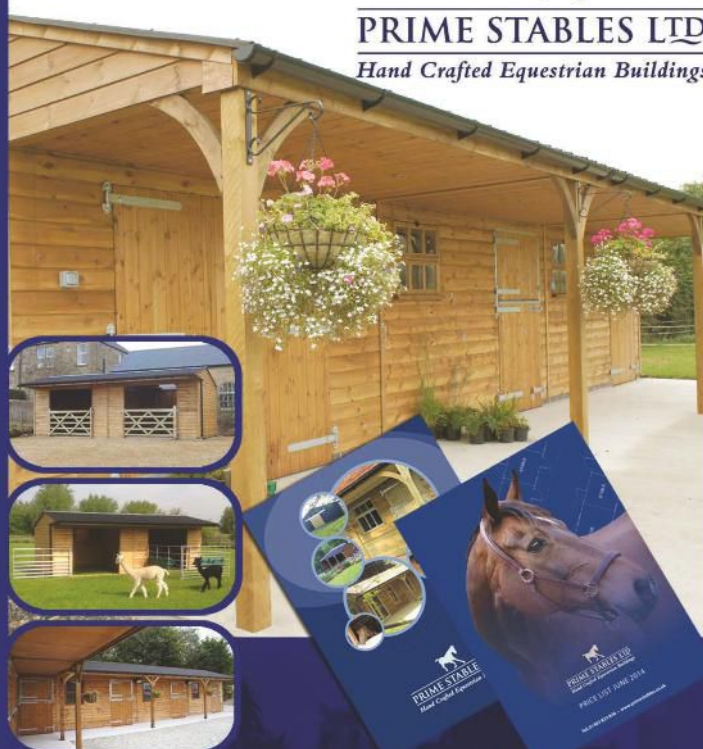
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The horse that made me

Nicola Wilson on Opposition Buzz, the horse with a massive heart who got better and better with time — and had a penchant for TV interviews

MR BUMBLE got me there, but Opposition Buzz made me. I was just starting out when Rosemary Search asked me to ride him when he was six.

He was a novice, bold and brave with a lovely trot but a very strange way of jumping. He would jump and land on all-fours with his back end first, but he just got better and better, and in time we could go faster. He gained confidence and became a phenomenal cross-country horse. He was always keen to get to the other side of the fence, and his love of cross-country was his great strength — he had the will and found the way. He was passionate about it.

When he was young he wasn't the most comfortable horse to sit on and sometimes he would drop the bridle and take off — it was a case of sitting tight and hoping to keep in touch with the saddle.

He was unique in every way, a very loving horse, but he liked his own space — so he had a stable in a corner where he could keep himself to himself if he wasn't feeling sociable. But he did love doing TV interviews.

He was lovely to take care of and work with, and my head girl Lynn Swift had a great relationship with him too — she went to everything with him. He made so many things possible and it was a partnership built on trust. He had a massive heart and was the most loyal, honest horse I've ever had. I doubt I'll ever sit on anything like him again. **H&H**

● **NEXT WEEK:** Ginny Elliott

‘He was a very loving horse, but he liked his own space — so he had a stable in a corner where he could keep himself to himself if he wasn't feeling sociable’

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